



CTE Highlight of the Week

Dan Kraus Harford Technical High School Graduate Landscape Architecture and Management

In his junior year of high school, Dan enrolled in the Landscape Architecture and Management Program, one of the Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs of study in the Environmental, Agricultural and Natural Resources career cluster in Harford County. While satisfied with the skills he gained in the classroom, Dan wanted more “real world” experience in his field. He worked with his instructors to enroll in the Work-Based Learning (WBL) program his senior year and found a paid work experience related to his studies with a hydroponics company. After a lay off by the hydroponics company, Dan did not become discouraged or frustrated. He consulted with his WBL coordinator to seek out other authentic work experiences to apply and practice his skills. When given a chance to work on landscaping equipment at Aberdeen Outdoor Power, Dan jumped at the chance for another paid internship. Even though the focus of this experience was on types of equipment used in landscaping instead of landscape architecture, Dan threw himself into the experience to learn yet another aspect of the landscaping business.

As a result, Dan graduated from high school in June of 2011 while still employed by Aberdeen Outdoor Power as a shop helper. With his hard work and determination, Dan earned a promotion and is currently the shop Foreman. “The opportunity to experience different areas of the landscaping profession would not have been possible without the WBL program, says Dan. The work-based experiences allowed me to have hands-on practice and try many different areas of the landscaping profession.” His employer, recognizing Dan’s strong work ethic and “can-do” attitude has paid for further training so that he could gain additional technical skills. Dan’s long-term goal is to stay with his current employer to gain complimentary skills in business management. In the future, his aspirations include a promotion to a management position within the company.

Congratulations, Dan, for your accomplishments and for being selected as the Maryland State Department of Education’s CTE Highlight of the Week!