



**MEDIA INFORMATION  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **“These students are our future” Career Center Co-Op program leads grad to fulltime apprenticeship at Miller Tool and Die, Co.**

Jackson, Mich.— The next generation of Jackson’s trained technical employees are emerging quickly from the Jackson Area Career Center. As part of the Career Center’s Co-op program, which places trained high school juniors and seniors with career-focused, part time employment, recent **Hanover Horton graduate Zach Rogers** is gearing up for a jump-start on his future. He can now look forward to full time employment as a registered apprentice at Miller Tool & Die Co. in Jackson.

Following his two years in the Career Center’s welding program and participation in co-op with Miller Tool, Zach transitioned into a school-to-work apprenticeship program. He recently began his official employment at Miller Tool, working as an apprentice toolmaker, on his way to becoming a journeyman toolmaker.

“From an early age, Zach had a real talent for working with his hands and problem solving,” said Tim Rogers, Zach’s father. “We knew we had found that right place for him at the Career Center. The classroom work, combined with the great co-op experience at Miller Tool, has all led to the school-to-work apprenticeship program and, now, a full time job upon graduation.”

“Zach is energetic, eager to learn, and well respected on the job site” Nick Arcaro, Manufacturing Manager at Miller Tool and Die and Rogers’ primary supervisor. “He has great parental support, and is accelerating through the apprenticeship program... his hours clocked during the co-op program will apply to apprenticeship training.”

Arcaro also recognized the value in the partnership with the Career Center and the win-win opportunities that can emerge from apprenticeships. “Right now, there is a huge, dire need for skilled youth... we invest in apprenticeships and the students at the Career Center because we know that these students are our industry’s future. I don’t think people in our area are taking advantage of the fact that we have a community resource where you have the chance to work with passionate students that also have real experience.”

While the chance to practice his skills learned at the Career Center was very rewarding, Zach reiterated that the chance to work alongside and job shadow other positions during his time in co-op was a critical experience in discovering his true passion for what he hoped to do in his career. It was during those experiences that he was able to realize that the love he had as a younger kid—building model cars and tinkering on machines—could be translated into a successful job.

“I would tell anyone interested in the Career Center co-op program to work hard and take advantage of it,” encouraged Zach. “You can have an incredible experience learning what you want to do. It’s amazing that this has all happened in two years. I’m looking now at a full time job right out of high school in a career I love. I wouldn’t trade a minute of it for anything.”

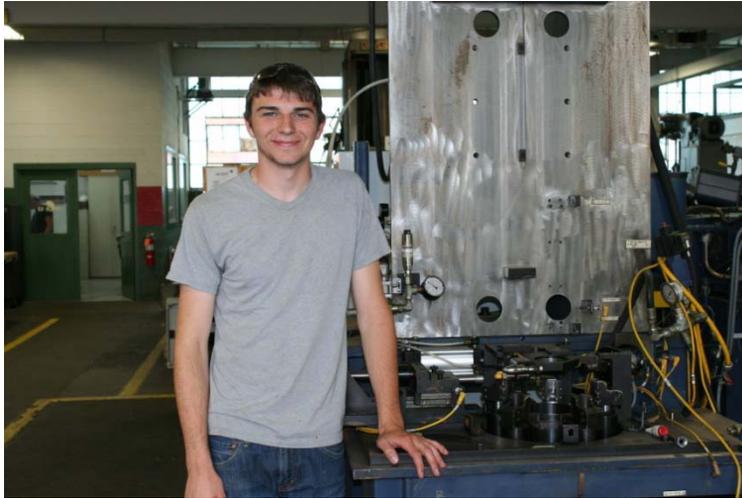
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*See below for photos and captions.*

**For more information**

Nick Arcaro  
Manufacturing Manager  
Miller Tool & Die Co.  
517-782-0347  
narcaro@millertd.com

Kim Medlock  
Communications Coordinator  
Jackson County Intermediate School District  
(517) 768-5216  
Kim.medlock@jcisd.org



*Photos: Top: Zach Rogers standing on-site at Miller Tool and Die, Co.  
Bottom: (From left to right): Zach Rogers, Cindy Lyons (Career Prep Coordinator at the Jackson Area Career Center), and Nick Arcaro (Manufacturing Manager at Miller Tool and Die)*