



Your Name: Toni King

Job Title: Diesel Technology Instructor

Employer: Mecosta Osceola Career Center

Degrees awarded from Ferris: Associate of Applied Science,
Associate in Heavy Equipment Technology – 2006
Bachelor's in Heavy Equipment Service Engineering Technology - 2007
Master's in Career and Technical Education - 2011

How would you describe your current position? I am currently the lead instructor for a NATEF certified medium/heavy truck technician program. I work with juniors and seniors from six local schools.

How has your education supported you in your job thus far? Without my education, I would not be able to teach for the State of Michigan. My undergraduate degrees helped me achieve my ASE certifications along with relevant job experience. My Master's degree allowed me to obtain my teaching certificate and the necessary skills to help my students.

How was the job search process? My instructors at Ferris set me up with full time employment during and after college at W.W. Williams Detroit Diesel and Allison Transmission in Grand Rapids. Through the newspaper I found an opening for Fleet Maintenance Supervisor at the Mecosta County Road Commission, where I worked for four years. After graduating with my Masters, I found an opening at the Career Center and I have been here since then.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? My biggest challenge is trying to stay current with the latest technology. Equipment is constantly changing, understanding the systems and how to repair them are becoming more complicated.

What is your favorite Ferris memory? One memory I think of often is one of my professors trying to teach us how to drive and backup a truck and trailer. I think there were many of us who almost took the fence out several times! Now, with myself trying to teach students how to drive the equipment, I feel sorry for what we put them through!

What do you do in your spare time? Work on a small crop farm, dirt bike, kayak, and spend time with family.

What advice would you give to current students? Never give up and always have a backup plan! Being a female in this field will never be easy or fair. You need to learn to deal with it and stand up for yourself! Showing up and your attitude are 90% of the game. The other 10% is working hard and continuing to learn. Do this and you can go wherever you want to go.