

Mike Franzosa's Hands-On Path Toward Quality Control

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When Mike Franzosa joined Vlier Products, a Hutchinson Company, in 2022, he was eager to build experience and find his path forward. Today, he is doing exactly that, while also pursuing an associate degree at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) in Worcester.

In fact, Mike's dedication and hard work have earned him a promotion to mechanical inspector, a key role in Vlier's quality team. Having previously worked in assembly, most recently as a kitter, he now has an even closer look at how precision, organization and attention to detail support the broader manufacturing process.

“I chose Quality Control (within QCC's Manufacturing Technology program) because after working next to the quality department for two years, I really liked and was interested in what they were doing,” Mike says. “I feel like it fits my mathematical brain.”

His coursework in CAD, print reading, dimensions, machining tools, calipers and micrometers directly complements the work happening around him every day. Access to engineers and quality team members has created an informal mentoring experience, helping to build both his skills and his confidence.

“I've been able to talk with Zach and Peter in the quality department about some of the tools and concepts I'm learning at QCC,” Mike says. “I thought it was pretty fun to take something I learned in class and connect it back to work.”

Balancing work and school has also helped Mike become more intentional about how he plans his days. With support from his team, he coordinates approved schedule adjustments when needed so he can stay focused on his responsibilities at Vlier while keeping up with his coursework.

Looking ahead, Mike's goal is clear: to continue developing the skills that will help him grow into a quality control role. For other employees considering school or a personal development goal, his advice is simple.

“If you talk with your employer and an advisor at school, you can definitely work out a schedule where you can take some classes,” he says. “It's a great opportunity. I think it's worth it.”

