

2021 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT



Mason Everly is enrolled in the Masonry Program at SUN Area Technical Institute. Due to COVID, it was difficult to participate in online classes which included a period of quarantine. Upon returning to school, he worked hard – his work ethic was never in question, and he stayed busy doing his best at every task. He participated in Cooperative Education, received his learner’s permit, and cut his hair – the change was incredible, and he looked like a young professional. Mason is always grateful for the help provided and has learned to use natural supports when needed – asking questions, accepting help, and working with peers. He commented, “compared to last year, I’ve come a long way.” Mason has improved in professionalism, work ethic, and commitment.

SUN Tech and the Masonry Program has changed the trajectory of Mason’s life. He is modest and grateful. Although not the strongest mason nor the most talented, he is consistently hard working, responsible, respectful, and a determined worker who will be employed for years to come and be able to change his life for the better. His former employer, Architectural Precast Innovations, has offered Mason a full-time job and he will also be able to work part-time with his Cooperative Education employer.

His instructor, Ryan Swinehart, said, “Mason has demonstrated a tremendous drive to do well and be successful in life...he is an inspiration to me...he has come so far this year from where he started. I can’t imagine anyone else working as hard as Mason to improve.”

Mason was nominated by Wendy Chalmers, Learning Support Instructor, SUN Area Technical Institute.



Pictured from left to right: *Ryan Swinehart, Masonry Instructor; Wendy Chalmers, Learning Support Instructor; **Mason Everly**, 2021 Life/Work Challenge Award Recipient; Kristy Etzler, Assistant Director; and Brooke Zechman, Instructional Aide*