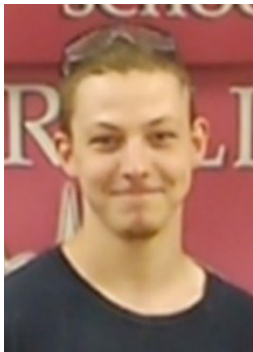


2022 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT SECOND PLACE



Matthew Smyers is enrolled in the Masonry program at Admiral Peary Area Vocational-Technical School (AVTS). He has faced an abundance of challenges that have had varying effects on his life – personal, academic, social, emotional, etc. Matthew has truly overcome his life/work challenges; he is a resilient young man. Matthew no longer sees these challenges as disadvantages, but as opportunities to learn and advance. He has a very positive outlook on life and has high hopes for a successful future.

Enrollment in a career and technical education (CTE) program served as a true “lifesaver” for Matthew. Being able to learn materials of interest helps maintain his attention and gives him a new vision for education.

Additionally, the hands-on aspect of CTE helps him experience success in a school setting. Matthew’s success in the program also includes his development of employability skills. As stated by Mr. Teeter, Masonry Instructor, “Matthew has the potential to be very successful in this line of work. He displays many of the quality characteristics that employers look for. Matthew comes to class with the internal drive and motivation to work and learn new things.”

Matthew’s success in the CTE program is evidenced by his personal development. He still recognizes the challenges he has and continues to face. He takes full responsibility for his work and actions. Matthew sees everything as a challenge, and his goal is to succeed. He plans to spend part of his award on work clothing and shoes. He wants to find a job, get his driver's license and buy a vehicle to drive to work. Then, he would like to find a job in the masonry field and pursue postsecondary education so that he can continue to build upon and improve his knowledge and skills.

Matthew was nominated by Angela Hudak, Learning Support Instructor, Admiral Peary AVTS.



Pictured from left to right: Andrew Paronish, Executive Director; Matthew Smyers, 2022 Life/Work Challenge Award Recipient; Ryan Teeter, Masonry Instructor; and Angela Hudak, Learning Support Instructor