



For Immediate Release

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BridgeValley Welding Student Finds Success

(South Charleston, WV) - BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BridgeValley) welding technology student Hughie Petry learned firsthand the power of education and ambition when he applied for an internship position at Walker Machinery Company.

The company, which supports local schools like BridgeValley by often hiring interns for mechanical and welding positions, consistently seeks bright and talented individuals to add to its team.

Petry learned of the internship, applied, and took initiative to follow up on his resume through telephone calls. His drive to move forward and take advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate his skills struck WMC, and he was provided the chance to showcase his abilities.

"Hughie demonstrated he was well educated, well trained and skilled at welding when he took our pre-employment welding test," said WMC Product Support Manager Greg Ingram. "After we hired Hughie as an intern we quickly learned he was a special person with an abundance of talent and a hard work ethic."

Petry rapidly learned WMC's equipment and met the standards set forth by the company on his first day of work. Soon, he was moved to the welding and fabrication side of the business where he was part of a team that successfully welded three 785 off-road coal bodies - some of the largest truck beds in the West Virginia and Kentucky coal fields - together. More recently, Petry has used his skills and work experience to move into his current position of welding longwall mining pans.

"His performance and welding skills are among the elite," said Ingram. "Of the many BridgeValley students I have had the opportunity to hire and evaluate, Hughie has impressed me with his work ethic, his BridgeValley education and his desire to learn. Providing Hughie maintains his current professional trajectory, he will enjoy a very successful and rewarding career."

Although Petry has not completed the Welding Technology program at BridgeValley, he was prepared through the training he received prior to accepting his position at WMC. BridgeValley's Welding Technology program instructs students on proper welding techniques following industry-wide safety procedures and provides them with a solid foundation to enable them to enter into the construction, engineering, manufacturing, heavy equipment repair, plant maintenance and weld engineering fields.

Learn more at www.bridgevalley.edu/welding-technology

About BridgeValley Community and Technical College

BridgeValley Community and Technical College promotes student success, prepares a skilled workforce, and builds tomorrow's leaders by providing access to quality higher education. BridgeValley Community and Technical College will be the college of opportunity for a diverse learner population, offering leading-edge technology, innovative ideas, and dynamic service to our students and our communities. BridgeValley Community and Technical College serves a six-county region including Fayette, Raleigh, Nicholas, Clay, Putnam and Kanawha counties. The college operates two campuses in Montgomery and South Charleston, along with the addition of the new Advanced Technology Center. BridgeValley Community and Technical College is a public institution of higher education independently accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and a member of the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia.

For more information about BridgeValley Community and Technical College financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education and events, call (304) 205-6600 or; or check the College's website:

["http://www.bridgevalley.edu"](http://www.bridgevalley.edu)