

# Choosing The Career That Fits You



Choosing a career can be a daunting and scary proposition for many students. A few students know from an early age what they want to do for their vocation and consistently pursue that dream their whole life. Some students head off to college hoping that they will figure it out at some point. The reality is that most of us stumble into what we enjoy doing through a series of opportunities that are presented to us throughout our lives.

## Meet Jenn — Artist and hands-on creative thinker

Jenn never went looking for a career in manufacturing...it found her. As a child, she always enjoyed creating things with her hands. This eventually translated into the pursuit of an art degree in college. Once graduated, she was having difficulty finding a job in her field of study and soon found that she needed to pursue other avenues in order to provide a living. Through a friend, she found out that TLX was looking to hire a few people. In the ten years she has been with TLX, Jenn has moved into different roles gaining experience and knowledge in the various aspects of the development to production process.

So how does an art degree help someone in manufacturing? Jenn's creative thinking and desire to learn has allowed her to get involved in many stages of a product's development. She found learning about the different processes has been very interesting and challenging. Additionally, being part of the team that works to make things better and more efficient so that TLX is developing

the cleanest and leanest part has been exciting and rewarding. In her own words, Jenn said that she takes great satisfaction when she sees components get shipped out the door to the customer because she knows that they are quality products that have been developed and made exactly to the customer's specifications.

Her advice to students? Get into a small company and grow with it. Being in a smaller company provides many opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding that will help you grow both personally and professionally. ▶

## Meet Alex — Process improvement aficionado

Accounting was the original career path Alex intended to follow as an assessment test taken in high school scored him high for that field. As a result, Alex pursued a business co-op opportunity in an accounting department at a credit union when it presented itself during high school. He quickly came to the realization that accounting was not the path he wanted to pursue. However, what the test did reveal was Alex's affinity for detail and efficiency.

He also took advantage of another opportunity to attend an engineering summer camp at UW Milwaukee. During the camp he learned about all types of engineering careers, one of them being an industrial engineer. Until that time, he had no idea that there was a career that was centered on process efficiency and improvement. He realized that with an industrial engineering degree he would have many



options available to him after college. Shortly after graduating, Alex joined TLX as an engineer on the quality team.

So, what exactly does an industrial engineer do in manufacturing? Not only does Alex spend his days working with individuals on the production line to improve the process of how something is made, but he also works closely with the design engineers to incorporate quality and efficiency into the design process. Alex has been surprised at how much there is to learn about all the systems and processes that go into making a quality finished product. The constant challenge of learning and working to improve both product and processes provides endless opportunities for creativity and innovation.

His advice to students? Figure out what you are interested in and take every opportunity to learn about

that subject. If you are unsure, try as many different things as you can until you find what interests you. Lastly, don't be afraid to talk to adults who have jobs in the field you are interested in. You will find that they will be more willing than you might think to take the time to answer your questions and to talk to you about their career.

TLX Technologies is excited about the future of manufacturing here in the United States. Regardless of what career path you choose to pursue, there are many doors of opportunity available to you in manufacturing right here in Wisconsin. We would like to invite you to explore what options are available to you through classes, programs and internships available through your school or community. If you have any questions, please contact TLX at [pr@tlxtech.com](mailto:pr@tlxtech.com) or visit our website at [www.tlxtech.com](http://www.tlxtech.com).



**M**ANUFACTURING  
TODAY  
WI

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: Renee Feight  
EDITORIAL: Andria Reinke  
PAGE COMPOSITION: Andrew Clausen  
WEBMASTER: Scott Bayerl  
SPECIAL PROJECTS: Allie Zacharias  
Please direct articles, advertising, questions or comments to: *Manufacturing Today WI*™  
PO Box 1704  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone/Fax 715-839-7074  
[www.manufacturingtodaywi.com](http://www.manufacturingtodaywi.com)

Please direct all inquiries to:  
[renee@teachingtodaywi.com](mailto:renee@teachingtodaywi.com)

*Manufacturing Today WI*™ is an independent publication for educators.

The opinions expressed in *Manufacturing Today WI*™ are not necessarily the opinions of *Manufacturing Today WI*™. We reserve the right to edit any and all materials submitted due to grammar, content and space allowances. Articles, photos and artwork submitted to *Manufacturing Today WI*™ are assumed to be released by the submitter for publication.