



IAN WITT



TWO RIVERS ENTERPRISES | HOLDINGFORD, MN

DUAL TRAINEE SUCCESS

MN DUAL TRAINING
GRANT PROGRAM

MANUFACTURING
ENGINEER

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Dual Training Grant awards up to \$150,000 in grants to employers utilizing dual-training models. The grant reimburses employers for costs associated with related instruction resulting in industry-recognized degrees, certificates, or credentials. The dual-training model pairs on-the-job training with formal related instruction to foster skilled employees and enhance company culture.

Dual trainees may benefit from up to \$6,000 a year from the Dual Training Grant. Dual trainees can participate in dual-training programs for up to four years through the grant.

- ✓ Transitioning from welder to manufacturing engineer
- ✓ Balancing full-time work, college classes and home life
- ✓ Earning Mechanical Engineering Bachelor's Degree at St. Cloud State University

Ian Witt, 30, of Little Falls, never thought he'd be well on his way toward a mechanical engineering degree. As a late high school graduate, Witt started his career journey working as a pipeline welder, eventually landing his current job at Two Rivers Enterprises, a metal fabricator of stainless steel commercial and industrial equipment, where he has served as a welder for the past four years.

With the help of the Dual Training Grant and support from Two Rivers, Witt began pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at St. Cloud State University. The Dual Training Grant covers over 3/4 of his annual tuition, which alleviates a significant financial burden for Witt and his growing family.

Although balancing work and school can be challenging, Two Rivers Enterprises management has been there to help Witt every step of the way. Witt maintains a flexible, full-time schedule while working toward his degree. His colleagues have also been incredibly supportive, often offering assistance and advice with his class assignments.

Witt is eager to advance into his new position, which will provide him and his family financial stability and career success. In turn, Two Rivers Enterprises will benefit from his commitment and well-equipped knowledge as he's grown from an experienced welder to a valuable engineer.

"The main goal is to help speed projects along, especially in the shop and production," said Witt. "It's all about finding ways to design effectively so the installations go quicker and smoother." By combining his on-the-job training with learning at school, Witt is already able to begin designing on the fly and fabricating custom equipment.

Witt is proud of the steps he's taken and recommends the Dual Training Grant to anyone who wants to advance their career. "If you want to improve your life, it's worth the time, but you have to put in the effort," said Witt. "I'm so thankful for the support from my job and family, and I don't think I could have achieved so much without it."