

“CONFIDENCE IS KEY.”

# Deborah Kintzele

... WELDER

... INDUSTRIAL MECHANIC

... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

**D**eborah Kintzele entered her senior year at Michigan City High School intending to become a veterinary technician. Then she discovered Career and Technical Education – and found her true passion.

**RISING TO THE CHALLENGE:** Deborah decided to try her hand at welding as a high school senior. “It was challenging at first, but I worked at it until it started to come easily.” Deborah performed so well that she earned an internship at GAF in Michigan City, an unprecedented accomplishment for a first-year student. She was named LaPorte County Career and Technical Education student of the year and graduated with Technical Honors.



**ONE OF THE GUYS:** Her impressive work as an intern landed Deborah a full-time position at GAF immediately after her graduation in 2013. Now she’s a welder and industrial mechanic-in-training for the company. “I’m the only woman in my department. I’m not as big or strong as some of the men, but I always get the job done. My coworkers see that and expect it; they treat me like one of the guys.”

**FAMILY TRADITION:** Deborah’s father and oldest brother are welders and industrial mechanics, and both learned their craft at the A.K. Smith Career Center. “I’ve always wanted to be like my dad. I think it’s pretty cool to follow in his footsteps.”

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** “Confidence is key. You’ve got to be confident in what you’re doing and believe you can accomplish *anything* you set your mind to.”

## Did you know?

This school year, 59 students from the A. K. Smith Career Center have worked as interns for area manufacturers and other businesses.

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