

City Success Story #41

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“SEE WHAT SOMETHING CAN BE” JEAN'CYR McCULLY

...CERTIFIED WELDER ...ARTIST
... CAREER-TECH HONOR STUDENT
... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

Some artists paint; some compose music. Others, like Michigan City High School senior Jean'Cyrr McCully, weld sheet metal into intricate sculptures, ranging from decorative art to functional furniture.

FAMILY TRADITION: Inspired by his father and grandfather, who work in the steel industry, Jean'Cyrr has been interested in learning a trade for as long as he can remember. “I've been working on one thing or another since I was big enough to hold a hammer. My dad and grandpa taught me to work hard, instilling in me their really strong work ethic.” Enrolling in the welding program at the A.K. Smith Career Center was a natural fit for him. “This program will help me find a job for sure, and not one where I'm stuck behind a desk doing book work. I love that it's so hands-on.”



BRIGHT FUTURE: Although he hasn't decided whether to attend college, technical school, or to begin working upon his upcoming graduation, the possibilities are endless for Jean'Cyrr, who is a member of the Technical Honor Society and a student mentor at the A.K. Smith Center. He will graduate with a dozen college credits and multiple American Welding Society certifications. “I really enjoy the artistic side of welding. No matter what I decide to do after graduation, I will probably freelance, and sell my art.”

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “When I'm welding sculptures, I start with a bunch of sheet metal, which can be pretty overwhelming. It's important to see what something can be, versus what it is, and focus on the end result.”

Did you know?

Welders from A. K. Smith entering apprenticeship programs earn up to \$50,000 a year... right out of high school!

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