

“ASK QUESTIONS, PURSUE ANSWERS.”

Chris Peckat

... PURDUE HONORS GRADUATE
... NUCLEAR ENGINEER
... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY



Nuclear engineer Chris Peckat, a 2011 Michigan City High School graduate, spends his typical work day at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan, determining how best to keep the public safe. And he credits much of his success to Michigan City Area Schools.

INITIAL SPARK: Chris remembers visiting the Cook Nuclear Plant on a field trip when he was a student at Coolspring Elementary School. “It amazed me back then, and now that I actually work here, it feels a little surreal. You never know what is going to impact you down the road.”

SCIENCE MINDED: Chris went on to take all but two of the science courses offered at MCHS. He also completed several AP classes, participated in Quiz Bowl and Spell Bowl, and won multiple gold medals in Science Olympiad. “I’ve always loved science and had a knack for it. I’ve also always loved technical work. There’s a satisfaction you get out of tackling a difficult problem and solving it.”

POWER OF CURIOSITY: Though he went on to graduate in 2015 with a degree in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue, Chris says MCHS laid the foundation for his success. “Teachers at City encourage you to ask questions and find the answers. Engineering is as much about what you *don’t* know as what you *do* know. Being able to ask a question and pursue it until you find the answer is a key skill.”

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “The best advice I ever got was on my first day of work at Brandt’s Old Fashion Emporium: Work every day like there’s somebody trying to take your job.”



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