

Hi I'm Cristina Olivera. I am in 12th grade at Plymouth High School. What led me to go into this direction instead of another direction is how hands-on it is. I have always been interested in more tactile learning.

Andy Hartley

My name is Andy Hartley. I'm superintendent for Plymouth Community Schools. The Precision Machining pathway with Plymouth schools in the partnership that we've created with local businesses creates amazing opportunities for our kids. CTE Solutions and ITAMCO are leaders when it comes to innovation as well as the products they are producing and the pathway we developed with their help is going to prepare kids exceptionally well.

Mark Neidig, Director of Operations, ITAMCO

My name is Mark Neidig and I'm the director of operations with ITAMCO. We have two facilities in Marshall County. One in Plymouth and one in Argos, so we've been working with local schools since 2011 when we began the precision machining program.

Jerry Chavez, Executive Director of Marshall County Economic Development Corporation

You know our employers are meeting with 3% unemployment not only here in Marshall County but probably throughout northern Indiana. The biggest need for employers is the ability to have a good workforce.

Scott Kaser

My name is Scott Kaser. I am the Precision Machining instructor at Plymouth High School. One of the things that really sticks out to me about the pathways is it starts the kids earlier in their school career developing the skill set that they really need.

Stephanie Drudge, Regional Program Coordinator, Associate Accelerated Program Ivy Tech Community College

My name is Stephanie Drudge and I work for Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend. There 17,000 jobs that will be coming up in years with an average salary around \$48,000.

Kurt Garner, County Commissioner Marshall County, Indiana

Having a confident workforce is absolutely the key in order to have the businesses to succeed.

Cristina Olivera

The most exciting thing I have done with this course actually creating it. It's really a great feeling when you are told to do something to create something, a project and given enough space to do it on your own.

Andy Hartley

The kids are able to develop not only around precision machining but also just basic employability skills, good work ethic, perseverance and you the ability to work on projects for a particular purpose are all great as we prepare students for life after high school whether it's training in this area or looking to attend college.

Mark Neidig

We can match our company skill requirements with the skill sets of local people that we've grown up with and have worked with all of our lives. I think it makes for a richer work environment not only in our company but also a tighter knit community and a stronger regional economy.

Scott Kaser

I think one of the greatest things we're going to see in this pathway grant is we're going to see a lot more kids that are going to have that skill set that's really required for this industry.

Jerry Chavez

You know Marshall County is really unique. We've got a lot of employers that are very cutting edge. Not only that, they supply equipment to industries and the East Coast-West Coast but a lot of our employers are now starting to utilize a lot of robotics/automation in their production.

Cristina Olvera

Another surprise is the work ethic that they expect here. A lot of it is common sense but something that surprised me is when my teacher had told me that to come in on time with being late to come in late being late but to come 15 minutes early is right on time and that surprised me because even though I hold that standard to myself I didn't realize that employers also think this way.

Stephanie Drudge

But also in industrial technology which includes welding and HVAC there's about 60,000 jobs upcoming with an average wage around \$46,000 a year.

Andy Hartley

As kids go through this particular pathway, they will develop skills and the work ethic that will create a more prepared workforce.

Scott Kaser

One of the things that I can really see that enhances the community in general is that you're developing the young people of your community to be employed right here at home.

Cristina Olvera

I am an intern at ITAMCO and they have been very supportive and encouraging so they asked me if you see something that you're interested in, tell us and we'll let you explore that.

Kurt Garner

Not only would it enhance the community by having industry and businesses stable with their workforce, but that has had a ripple effect across the broader community in Marshall County. You have stable businesses and they're able to grow and expand that means having creative quality of life and as well as a higher living wage within the community.

Stephanie Drudge

This area has a significant number of opportunities that are coming for students that are in high school now, graduating soon, or even those that are graduating within the next few years. So when you have a strong middle and upper middle class who are earning wages in these high

demanded high-wage jobs, not only do they have money to spend, but they also enhance the entire community. They're spending money, but they are also making money.

Cristina Olvera

Something that really excites me within this field and actually continuing this is the many directions. My main goal is to program and design blueprints.

Mark Neidig

Probably four or five employability skills that are most important to ITAMCO when we go to hire a new employee. First and foremost, it's integrity and accountability, dependability in terms of their attendance and then also just a personal desire to learn. You know the desire to have personal growth both in the workplace and outside.

Stephanie Drudge

These dual credit classes are free to the students so they're earning college credit and certifications at no cost while they're in high school.

Kurt Garner

Having people that are generally contributing to their businesses by a workforce that's ready I think that there's other effects that brings and that's having people that are engaged in community affairs and engaged in various activities in the community that I think adds a different dynamic all together so a person that is is a good competent and contributing number of a workforce tends to be a good competent and contributing member of the community.

Cristina Olvera

I would say to the younger generation, to females, that I think they should look into it. The stereotypes and prejudices say this isn't something women do, but I think they are not true.

Text: Plymouth Pathways

P2 - Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing

PCSC partnering with Marshall County industry & business to create an amazing community for individuals and families to thrive, work, and grow.

Andy Hartley

Plymouth Community School is committed to cultivating career awareness and career preparation through school and workforce engagement. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to create an amazing community for individuals and families to thrive, work and grow.