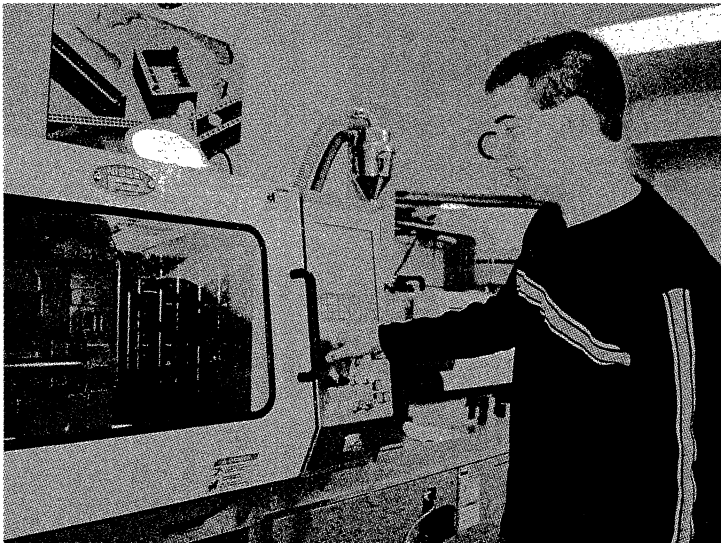


ECTS Success Stories

Last year at this time, Ben Hirschmann was about to complete the one-year Plastics Technology program at the Erie County Technical School and in May, graduate from Fort LeBoeuf High School. Today, Ben is employed in the plastic's field with plans to further his education and increase his skill level and contribution in the workplace.

Ben had once contemplated following in his brother's footsteps and enlisting in the armed services. However, his interests turned to plastics when he enrolled in the high school program and received encouragement from family members. His mother, Carol Hirschmann, is employed as a plastics press operator.



Although the 120-ton Nissei Injection Molding Machine was not currently in operation, Ben explains how to open the mold.

Ben did well in the plastics program and graduated from high school with a solid background in the field. In fact, just prior to graduation, Ben received the SPE Student Recognition Award. In September of 2003, he landed a job at American Molding and Technologies, Inc. The company is a precision injection molder that produces parts for the connector industry, specializing in tight tolerance work.

Due to Ben's training at the Erie County Technical School, he was able to begin his new job as a press operator with the basic knowledge of mold set-up, material handling, clearing alarms and machine start up and shut down. "The skills he learned in school saved us an enormous amount of training time," said Rick Capwill, second shift foreman. "We operate two different types of molding machines and Ben's experience made it much easier for him to adapt to the machines in our facility. He understood the logic and mechanics of the equipment and knew the significance of process settings."

Ben acknowledged that the injection molding machines he works on now are fairly similar to the equipment he learned to operate in school, but the programs and mechanics are changing to allow for more efficient molding techniques. "We didn't learn much about molding electrical connectors in school because we didn't have that type of mold available to us," said Ben. "But now, I'm



Jerry Baker, quality assurance manager, explains quality control issues to Ben.

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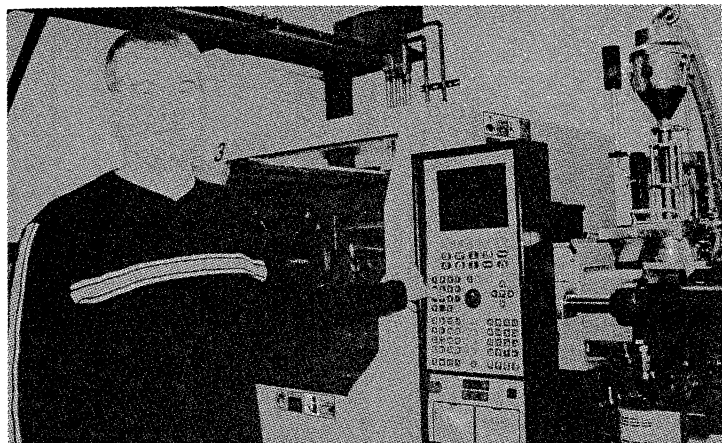
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RICHARD W. DEETER, President



Ben displays a Demag Ergotech 60-ton press also used at American Molding and Technologies, Inc.

learning more about hydraulic and toggle controls and as a processing trainee, I'm learning how to run parts, start the machines and set molds that relate to the connector industry."

In his seven months with American Molding and Technologies, Ben has gained a great deal of experience and further insight on the ever growing and changing plastics industry. "I really enjoy everything that I do from grinding materials and setting up machines to boxing parts," added Ben. "I would highly recommend the Plastics Technology program at ECTS to anyone interested in the plastics field. Mr. Paparelli is a great teacher and I'd like to thank him for all he taught me," added Ben. "I also have a great deal of respect and admiration for Mr. Richard Putnam, the owner of American Molding and Technologies for giving me a good start in the workplace and for sharing his experience and knowledge of the industry."

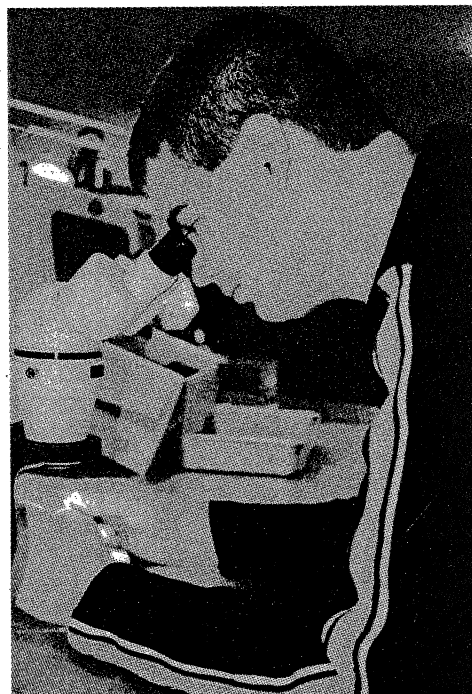
Ben notes that he would like to attend classes at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College where he would pursue the Plastics Engineering Technology program. "I will be working third shift soon which will allow me to take classes during the day. I definitely want to stay in this field, so right now I just want to learn as much as I can in the workplace," said Ben.

Ben Hirschmann recently visited his high school plastics instructor. "He told me that the company he works for is currently expanding," said Frank Paparelli. "He will have the challenge to build upon his current position and grow with the company. This is a nice opportunity for a young man like this, and a good reflection on our program and our school. It's really a great feeling to see our graduates succeed after they leave here!"

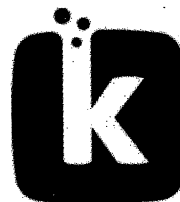
American Molding and Technologies was established in 2000 as an injection molder of

tight-tolerance electronic connectors. They have already outgrown their current facility and will soon be relocating to their new location in the Sterrettania Industrial Park in Fairview. The new building is 18,000 square feet compared to the current facility of 4,800 square feet. The multi-shift operation has 16 employees and anticipates adding 25 new jobs over the next three years.

"Our goal is to become a world class molder of electrical connectors," notes Steve Patterson, general manager. "Soon we will have the luxury to expand our presses and capabilities as we move into our new facility. We look forward to seeing more young people, like Ben Hirschmann, who are ambitious and ready to pursue a rewarding career in plastics."



Ben checks the quality of a newly molded part.



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