

Engineer Focusing on Building Workforce



Jackson Mallady

Jackson Mallady has always been interested in how things work. As he pursued his education in engineering, he discovered he also has a passion for learning about how people work, he says.



Mallady is the Employee Development Coordinator for thyssenkrupp Presta. In this role, he engages in the community and throughout thyssenkrupp Presta to develop and improve apprenticeship programs. He is also a key contributor to new hire onboarding and training administration, ensuring employees have a smooth transition in to the organization.

Mallady appreciates that employee development allows for ongoing change, learning, and growth. “This position allows me to always be developing towards something greater here at thyssenkrupp Presta, and also have a direct impact on Danville’s future economy and workforce,” he says. “I see it as a real win-win.”

Thyssenkrupp Presta is an automotive supplier. The Danville plant produces camshafts for Ford, General Motors, Kia, Volkswagen, Fiat Chrysler, and Harley Davidson, Mallady shares.

“As younger people enter the workforce, fewer of them have hands-on experience and the hard skills necessary to support an industrial workforce,” Mallady says.

Danville Area Community College (DACC) and thyssenkrupp Presta are partnering to provide high school students in Vermilion County with the opportunity to gain certification and work experience in the automotive industry. Mallady’s management of the apprenticeship program also includes strategizing and implementing tactics to aid in closing the skill gap within the thyssenkrupp Presta Danville group.

“I hope to create a sustainable program that will thrive long after I’m gone and perhaps serve as a template for other businesses or industries that might have a similar skill gap in their employee base,” Mallady says. “In time, I hope this will make students want to pursue a career in manufacturing back here in Danville, just as I did.”

Although the Vermilion County native is only five months into his current role, he has previously completed three internships with thyssenkrupp Presta. An alumnus of Danville High School, he recently graduated from the University of Dayton.

While he is still adjusting to not being a full-time student, Mallady enjoys listening to audio books and working out. He’s excited to have more time to attend Danville’s various community events, he says.