

### **Eastern Suffolk BOCES Provides Educational Services That Transform Lives...**

- **Mr. Steve Miglino, ESBOCES Marine and Motorcycle Engine Repair graduate**



Steve decided at the young age of twelve that he was going to live in Florida. He didn't like snow and he liked to go boating and ride motorcycles on a regular basis. Florida was the practical dream. Little did he know that six years later at the age of 18 his dream would become a reality.

When Steve was 13 years old, he began tinkering with motorcycle engines. He professes to owning his first motorcycle at age 14, much to the chagrin of his parents. Nevertheless, they knew his passion and desire to work on motorcycles, and during his sophomore year at the Sachem CSD, Steve enrolled in the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Marine and Motorcycle Engine Repair program. Steve said, "The biggest obstacle to attending BOCES was scheduling lunch. I either gave it up or ate on the bus. Not much of a give-up because the program was well worth the small sacrifice."

The Marine and Outdoor Power Equipment program provides students with the practical experience of working on two- and four-cycle engines and the skill to service, maintain, repair, and recondition marine craft. Students also obtain knowledge to repair motorcycles, mopeds, ATV's, and scooters. The curriculum encompasses most marine systems including but not limited to fuel, drive, electrical and electronics, fiberglass repair, welding and machining. Steve said of his teacher Mike Vagner, "He was a great teacher and person. Mr. Vagner's skill level and mechanical abilities were very high. I can't say enough about him."

The Marine and Outdoor Power Equipment program is a two-year program. In Steve's junior year of high school he competed in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) (now referred to as SkillsUSA), at the regional and state levels in Farmingdale and Syracuse New York respectively, and ultimately competed at the national level taking fourth place. He competed once again in his senior year of high school and secured first place at both the regional and state levels, advancing into the national competition in Kansas City. This time he went for the gold and captured it. With this first place win, Steve was offered a full-time scholarship to the Marine Mechanical Institute (MMI) in Florida. At 18 years of age, his dream was coming true and he had a free ride. Steve said, "This was a dream come true. I have to thank Mr. Vagner for teaching me how to troubleshoot and instilling in me motivational skills to push forward."

From working at Honda Fun Wheels in Medford, to becoming a homeowner at the age of 19, to co-owning a boat and motor business, wasn't all that amazing to Steve. He is quick to say, "Eastern Suffolk BOCES gave me a good starting point. The program set me up with the fundamentals. The education I received was a good foundation."

While in college, Steve worked at COSCO in the evenings and weekends. He secured a job at Fisher Marine Services and became good friends with his service manager Ron Russell. Good fortune has followed Steve because of all his hard work. His manager Ron was offered a position at Richey Boat and Motor Marina and wouldn't accept the job unless he could take Steve with him. What a testament to Steve's abilities in the field! In 2002, at 28 years old, Steve became co-owners of Richey Boat and Motor Marina in Hudson, Florida. He said, "I'm doing pretty well, even in this economy. I have BOCES to thank for providing me with direction, a great education, and the fundamentals I needed to be successful in this industry."