

# MIKE NIXON

## INSTRUCTOR

CNC Production Specialist



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*My father always told me “If a job is worth doing, it’s worth doing right... the first time!”*

I have always tried to remember that quote throughout my career as I have seen so many people try to take short cuts or the cheap route to get the job done. Many times they had to do it over again.

I’ve learned a lot from my parents, teachers and co-workers. My junior and senior years in high school, I attended a vocational program in machine trades. I learned the basics of what it takes to machine parts and interpolate drawings while developing skills that created a solid foundation for my career in manufacturing and design.

I first started working as a machinist at a family owned company making parts with manual machines, including the shaper, mill, lathe and grinders. I also learned how to fabricate and weld. A few years later I learned to program and operate CNC Wire EDM. After that, I started working with AutoCAD and designing a product line of extrusion dies that our company made for the major pet food industry. That was the start of my career in product design.

Since then, I have worked with other companies doing different things. I was a tooling designer for Crown Equipment, designing deep draw forming dies, progressive and trim dies. Later I designed aftermarket cabs for Industrial Cab, a company that designed and built custom cabs for the heavy equipment industry. I then worked to help develop and expand a product line at Vac-Tron Equipment who manufactures vacuum excavation equipment that’s used primarily for underground utility repair. Following that, I worked at FLC Machines, designing roll forming machines and custom designed machines for different applications.

36 years later, I now bring all the skill sets, knowledge and experience that I have acquired over the years to teach students at Lake Technical College. As a new CNC Production Specialist Instructor, I look forward to the opportunity to pass on the skill sets in both design and manufacturing that will provide the students a solid foundation for their career.

***Students will be hearing, “If a job is worth doing, it’s worth doing right... the first time!”***

*Mike Nixon*