

Shianne Cannizaro  
Asnuntuck Community College

Good evening Co-chair and members of the Appropriations committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you tonight. My name is Shianne and I am a second semester enrollee in the Advanced Manufacturing and Machining Program at Asnuntuck Community College. I am originally from St. Louis, Missouri and moved here almost two years ago. I served as a weather forecaster in the United States Air Force for six years. When I first got out of the military I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to do. My family was very supportive during this time trying to help me find a career I would enjoy. Weather forecasting was a very grey area and I wanted a job that was more black and white. My husband and most of his family happen to be employed in the machining field so they suggested I give it a try. I hadn't been to a real school in at least 8 years and I was nervous how much I would really enjoy it. Alongside my younger sister I decided to finally sign up for the program. I can tell you right now, it has been one of my best decisions. Within the first two weeks I fell in love with the entire program. All of the instructors were incredibly welcoming. The thought of running a machine such as a manual lathe or mill was terrifying at first, but the instructors helped me take my first step and I know I won't turn back now. At first the weekdays at school seemed to take forever and now it almost feels like I'm not in class long enough. The program at Asnuntuck has provided me with so much more knowledge than I imagined it would and there's always more for me to learn. I really love that there is so much hands on experience throughout your classes whether it's working on the shop floor or measuring with the CMM. Asnuntuck has changed my confidence in myself and my skills drastically and for the better. I am set to graduate in May and I have my fingers crossed to get a job with my husband. Machining has definitely given me a new purpose and I can't wait to make a career out of this thanks to the program at Asnuntuck.