

Tim Pomerleau
Recreational Marine Repair

Hello everyone my name is Tim Pomerleau and I attended the Recreational Marine Repair program here at PATHS for the past two years. My experience here has been one that I will never forget. I was never a successful student in a regular high school atmosphere, English classes and math classes never captured me the way that technology and engines has. Before I came to PATHS I was a student at Gray New-Gloucester High School. When I first asked about going to a vocational program outside of my sending school I was told that I would be better off attending regular classes to build my GPA because colleges viewed those students better. I then asked for a visit to come here and see if it was for me or not. Instantly walking up the stairs seeing the motorcycles on the stands, the boat motors all apart, I was hooked. I knew that I would be able to excel here in order to build my future the way that I wanted. I always loved motor-sports, owning my own snowmobiles and ATV's and working on them captured me in some way. I could always be found in my garage tearing something apart. However my skills to put them back together wasn't always the best. PATHS gave me the knowledge to understand how to put those things back together in an organized fashion. I learned that there are two types of mechanics out there, the ones who will replace what is broken, and those who will examine why the part broke and formulate a solution to prevent it from breaking again. Never once did I arrive in the afternoon feeling like I was attending school. I felt like I was going to my job, since my actions and my performance was how I was judged. I wasn't being paid with money but I was being supplied with skills that will allow me to go where I want in life. The most important skill of all - that can't be taught in a textbook - is professionalism, the ability to conduct yourself in an upstanding manner at all times no matter what environment you are in. As we graduate this year, some will be entering the work force to pursue our careers with skills learned at PATHS, and some will go on to further their education at the post secondary level. Whatever you choose, I urge you all to take your futures into your own hands, and control your destinies wherever they may take you. Be your own advocate and transfer your skills learned here into the real world. I wish all of you the best of luck, and thank you to all the teachers who have guided me to where I want my life to go. Specifically Mr. Gerald Gherardi - you've have given me the skills to achieve all of my dreams. Your knowledge far exceeds the technical background. The wisdom and encouragement you gave us all everyday makes you the finest man and teacher I have ever had. Words will never pay you back for all you have done for. Thank you for giving my future to me. So as Mr. Gherardi would say "go achieve your dreams" and Congratulations the class of 2010.