



## Interns Turn to Matrix

Matrix Tool continued with a long-standing practice of providing internship opportunities to a handful of college students during the summer of 2021. With the close proximity of the Penn State Behrend Plastics Engineering Technology (PLET) program, there is a ready list of internship candidates to consider. This year Matrix had two Penn State Behrend interns, and an IT intern from the Erie Institute of Technology.



**Juston Jones—a junior PLET student:**  
*“I liked being able to communicate with other engineers and ask for advice or ask tool design questions that I had.”*

“The internship programs are an excellent way to bridge what these students are learning in the classroom and combine it with very practical, hands-on work experience,” said Tim Lewis, Matrix Tool’s President. He added, “We have several examples of current employees who started out as interns, co-ops or who went through our tooling apprenticeship program. What started as entry level, “foot in the door” opportunities turned into some well-paying jobs and very productive employees. These programs are truly a win-win for potential future employees and Matrix Tool.”

The summer internship program was made possible in part through the State/Local Internship Program (SLIP) initiative. It is a grant funded program through the PA

Dept. of Labor & Industry to support internships for young adults throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In NW PA, it is a coordinated effort between NWPA Job Connect and the PA Career Link.

“Because we have several current employees that started as interns, they intuitively know how to relate to and directly help the PLET interns,” said Dave Moyak, General Manager of the Molding Division. Dave continued, “With over a dozen degreed plastics engineers on staff, it’s vital that we

continue to invest in and stay connected to the students going through the Penn State Behrend program. We both have a lot to offer each other.”



**Lucas Wolf—a Penn State Behrend Mechanical Engineering student:**  
*“When I graduate, I am looking to become a mechanical engineer and hopefully one day becoming a part of Formula One.”*

This year Matrix also extended an internship to Mark Rewers in the IT department. Mark experienced a real-world crisis shortly after he started in the form of a serious power outage that temporarily shut down the operation. Mark later commented, “Most of what I did in school was in a lab environment with little or no pressure. I learned to be more comfortable and confident to deal with those situations in real time.” Mark recently accepted a full-time position at Matrix as an IT Specialist.



**Mark Rewers—EIT student and now Matrix Tool IT Specialist**