

# Spotlight on Student Success

## Robert Anderton

### “Becoming the Best Person I Can Be”

Robert Anderton graduated from Rocky River High School and West Shore’s Auto Technology program in 2010. During his time at West Shore, Robert competed several competitions:

- Greater Cleveland Auto Dealers competition, placing 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Skills USA Regional competition, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and advancing to the State competition
- Ford/AAA Auto Skills competition, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the State

After West Shore, Robert went on to earn his Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana in 2014. He is currently employed as an engineer for Honda of America Manufacturing in their two-year Engineering Development Program at the East Liberty Auto Plant near Marysville, Ohio. In this program he will be rotating through several different departments so that he can continue to build his skills and find where he fits in best. One particular rotation he is looking forward to is with the new Performance Manufacturing Center where they are building the new Acura NSX supercar.

His hobbies include talking to people all over the world on Amateur or HAM Radio and getting involved with HART (Honda of America Racing Team).

Hear directly from Robert about his experiences here at West Shore and in the Field of Engineering:

**“Being in Auto Tech at West Shore was the best part of my high school experience.** I was told by some people including a former guidance counselor that I was “too smart” to go into the program, but how wrong they were. Instead of wasting my time taking extra classes that I wasn’t interested in or having study halls, I was busy learning and making the most out of each day. The hands on experience as well as the life experience provided by Mr. Z allowed me to be competitive and successful among my peers. My experience at West Shore has given me a well-rounded education and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in cars especially if they are looking at engineering. Mr. Z was the perfect teacher because he is an expert in what he teaches and can demonstrate his knowledge, but most importantly he builds a personal relationship with each student and helps them to develop and succeed.

#### **Working in the Engineering Field -**

“Every time I tell someone I am an engineer they immediately assume that I am designing something, but the reality is that designing is only one small piece of engineering. As an engineer you can be as hands on as you want, you aren’t just sitting behind a computer. The hands on skills I learned in Auto Tech are just as important as the math and science courses I took in high school and college. In my opinion, the time and experiences I had at West Shore are what have given me the opportunities so that I can be where I am today and to become the best person I can become.”

West Shore Auto Technology instructor, Mike Szittai states, “Robert worked very hard at his education here and at Rose-Hulman. He strived for success and has achieved it deservingly so. His parents supported him the entire time he was in my class which helped lead him to the successful competition outcomes.



Robert and Andrew Schulte at the 2010 Ford/AAA Skills Competition where the duo placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the state.