



Degrees@Work
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Video transcript

David Butcher Testimonial

OK, yeah, my name is David Butcher. I'm an automotive technician at Golling Chrysler in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. I enrolled in the Degrees@Work program to obtain a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. The first course I took was in marketing and I took multiple business courses since.

Well, I first heard about the program when it launched down south. I think they first launched in the Southeast; there was some talk about it. I was interested in completing my bachelor's degree. I did have an associate degree in automotive technology already and I wanted to kind of branch into the business end of the automotive industry. So I was very interested in the program when I first heard about it, and then when I heard that we were going to be enrolled I signed up immediately because that's exactly what I want to do.

When I first heard of the Degrees@Work program, I was very excited about it, and intrigued that the opportunity was going to be given to all dealership employees to obtain this degree. And then once I learn more and more about it and how it all worked and that there was absolutely no obligation back to the dealership or to FCA, I was very excited to get enrolled; within a month, I was enrolled and starting classes.

As far as from the staff of the Degrees@Work program at first they seemed to reach out to me a lot and they would call me or text me and just ask me how things were going or I'd get an occasional email. They seemed to really want to keep me engaged and keep talking--making sure that I was going to be okay.

With the dealership, I've made it a point to not let it interfere with my job. And if I do work on any of my school work at work I make sure it's on my lunch break. I'll just sit at my computer while I eat my lunch and do my work if I need to but most of the time I've been pretty good about just doing my schoolwork at home in the evenings or on the weekends.

Other than that, you know, I did receive a lot of support at home from my wife and, you know, the kids bearing with me when dad's got to lock himself in the office for a couple of hours. But they were definitely understanding as well.

I was concerned that I wasn't going to be able to manage everything with the family life and the kids and the working full time. I was definitely afraid that it was going to be difficult to keep up – and it has been at times. It has been difficult. But I've always found a way to make it work by just keeping my own goals in mind.

When I joined Degrees@Work, I didn't have to come out of pocket for anything. I already had a computer at home with an internet connection and that's all you need. They paid for all my books. They paid for all the online resources that I needed—all the tuition was completely paid for upfront. I didn't have to come out of pocket for anything.

Some of the courses I've taken in the Degrees@Work program I have applied to my daily life. The biggest example I can think of is the critical thinking course. It taught me a lot of different ways to look at situations no matter what the situation is, and I do apply this stuff a lot.

This is not an opportunity that you're going to be given very often, so taking advantage of it is almost a no-brainer, to me to just go ahead and get this done because even if you don't use a degree that you obtain right away, you're going to put that degree in your pocket and no one can ever take it from you. The Degrees@Work program is a fantastic program. It's very good for anybody in the dealership. I like that anybody can be involved in it. Down to the person who sweeps the floor at the dealer. I mean, that's incredible that everyone is given that the same exact opportunity.