

DAVE FISCHER

Working Her Way to the Top: Producing a Bright and Healthy Future

Graduate: Class of 1984 Occupation: Small Business Owner
By Ashley Matthews Spring, 2010

Henry Ford once said, “There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something.” If this statement holds any truth, Dave Fischer's achievements already should have given him enough happiness to last his lifetime.

Owner of Fischer Farms, Dave Fischer has many important responsibilities. Managing a beef farm, a natural foods business, and a popular market and grill, Dave has rather hectic weeks, but he still takes time for other important aspects of his life. For example, he greatly involves himself with his church, Holy Family, and has coached little league baseball, soccer, and a chess team. Dave considers his family-his wife Diana and their three children-one of his greatest achievements.

To become an entrepreneur and start your own business, one must work long hours and risk the chance of failure; however, for Dave Fischer, the benefits outweigh the risks. “I want to set an example of how a local food distribution system can work to provide great quality food to all.” Producing high-quality beef for all of Indiana, Fischer Farms most certainly does just this. As one can tell, Dave deeply cares about his customers.

Before he decided that he wanted to become a small business owner, Dave Fischer had two other quite interesting occupations. After working as an engineer in the aluminum industry for four years, Dave joined a company called i2 Technologies. Based in Dallas, i2 produces software to make companies' supply chains more effective. After living in Texas for three years, i2 required Dave to move to Munich, Germany for one of their projects. Living in Germany for two years, Dave broadened his awareness of different cultures. Diligent and determined, Dave eventually became vice-president of i2. In just eight years, he helped the business grow from only twenty-eight employees to more than seven thousand employees.

In high school, Dave Fischer already knew he liked to work with computers. Mrs. Schnellenberger and Mrs. Guerin, Dave's high school computer class teachers, influenced him more than any other teacher did-not to say that he did not gain important knowledge from his other teachers as well. For example, Dave says that the calculus class he took at Forest Park helped him at Purdue, where he received his

bachelor's degree and master's degree. Because Purdue accepted him into its 3+1 program, he received both degrees in the time that it would generally take to obtain a bachelor's degree. According to Dave, students should focus on learning while in high school and try to remember what they learn.

Besides the learning aspect of school, Dave also considers friendship an important component of this experience. Dave says that his friends helped him make some of his best memories of high school. In fact, Dave's best friend from high school remains his best friend today. To all currently in high school, Dave gives the following advice: "Make and keep good friends; don't get caught up in petty issues; realize the importance of good relationships with your classmates and your family."

Producing healthier meats and operating a successful business-along with giving great advice-Dave Fischer paves the way for a brighter and healthier future.