

MATT LEVERON

From Southeast Dubois to the Pacific Northwest: Matt Leveron's Accomplished Career with Boeing

Graduate: Class of 2001 Occupation: Production System Consultant
By Marcus Beckman, Spring, 2010

Vince Lombardi once said, “The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.” Throughout his life, Matt Leveron has had the will to achieve greatness. Traveling the world as a production system consultant for The Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington, he has done just that.

Matt took advantage of his time in high school by participating in the school plays, Odyssey of the Mind, Destination Imagination, and All-State Choir. During his senior year, he was appointed to serve on the Indiana Youth Commission for Service and Leadership by then governor Frank O'Bannon. Excited and ready to make a difference in the state, he testified before the Indiana House of Representatives Education Committee in support of a bill that would allow student seats on the Indiana State Board of Education.

After graduation, Matt proceeded to attend Purdue University to earn a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering. In 2006, with degree in hand, Matt moved to Seattle, Washington, to work for The Boeing Company.

Manufacturing large commercial jets for airliners across the globe, The Boeing Company depends on a group of smaller companies to supply parts and raw materials needed to assemble its products. To keep up with over 3,000 suppliers, Boeing established a department called Supplier Management. Matt works with a team that acts as a smaller group inside of the Supplier Management branch. As production system consultants, he and his team try to improve the efficiency of the supplier companies to insure they produce the required amount of material for Boeing without delays. This means he and his team must travel to the assembly lines of Boeing's suppliers and find flaws in the processes that take place in those lines.

Currently, Matt's assignment consists of working with Boeing's Japanese suppliers. From Seattle, he and his team fly to Japan once every month or two and stay for about two weeks. While in Japan, they visit a supplier's factory, gain a greater understanding of the issues that face the supplier, and work with the employees of the supplier to make changes to increase productivity. Some days, Matt wears a suit to work-when meeting with the supplier's managers. Other days, he wears jeans and a T-shirt-when pushing machines around the factory floor with the supplier's hourly employees.

When he returns to Seattle, he does three tasks on the job: spends time studying the difficulties that face suppliers, planning future trips to ensure he and his team have a productive visit, and training to become a stronger production system consultant. While off work, Matt enjoys snowboarding, hiking, ultimate frisbee, and building model battleships. During Thanksgiving of 2009, he and some friends went up to Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, to snowboard; many of the 2010 Winter Olympics events occurred there.

Experienced and knowledgeable, Matt offers two recommendations for high school students. First, take studying seriously-actually learn what is taught instead of cramming information to “ace” a test. To have success in college, learning and remembering information while in high school can prove imperative. Second, Matt advises students to explore-try something new. “If you are a student-athlete who hasn't ever done anything outside of athletics, try out for the school play or choir,” he advises. While in college, Matt tried something new by living in the international dorm at Purdue for a semester; he had a great time and learned about the culture of people around the world.

Through his example of success in an exciting career, we all have something to learn from Matt. He is proof that, with enough will power and ambition, anything is possible for a Forest Park Ranger.