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From Small Engines to Big Iron - Alistair in his own words



Alistair as an early student learning woodwork

A career that began with small engines grows into something larger

If you ask Alistair where his confidence with tools came from, he'll credit a combination of early curiosity, a supportive dad, and the hands-on learning environment he found at Bendix Academy. Today he works as both a welder and a locomotive engine technician, building a future on skills that began with small engines, and grew into something much larger than he expected.

Watching his dad work with tools planted the first seeds of interest, but Bendix was the place where interest became action. In the workshop he discovered that tools weren't intimidating, they were empowering. He remembers thinking, *"Anybody could do it. And I realized I could do it too."*

Those early lessons built the foundation for everything that followed. Each lesson added confidence and understanding, and working alongside mentors showed Alistair how real-world skills could turn into real opportunities. Small engines soon led to welding, fabrication, and eventually a job maintaining full-size locomotive engines, machines a far cry from the ones he first opened on the workbench.

Today Alistair works as both a welder and locomotive engine technician, carrying with him not just the skills he learned at Bendix Academy, but the mindset that came with them: patience, problem-solving, curiosity, and the belief that he could take on challenges bigger than he ever imagined. What began as a simple spark at Bendix Academy now powers the work he does every day, proof that sometimes the smallest engines start the biggest journeys.

Learn more about how Bendix Academy is working today to restore mechanical self-reliance by visiting BendixAcademy.org.



Alistair and Todd sharing a memory during a chance encounter years later.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Livingston Sunrise
Rotary
Club



Big Thanks for a Big Gift!

Bendix Academy is thrilled, and deeply grateful, to share that the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Foundation has awarded us a grant toward the purchase of a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine.



TOOLMAN TIPS:



Measure Like It Matters

Measuring is one of the simplest skills to learn—yet many students don't get early hands-on exposure to it. A few careful moments with a tape measure can save hours of rework, and spare a great deal of frustration.



At Bendix Academy, we teach students to measure, verify their numbers, and build confidence through accuracy before a single cut is made. Those few extra seconds often make the difference.

As the old saying goes, **Measure twice, cut once.**

Learn more at BendixAcademy.org/tips

TOOLMAN TIPS

