Alex Voytik originally pursued a degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration in motorsports. After careful consideration, he realized that the racing and automotive industries weren’t the best fit for him. Alex’s mother was an electronics professor at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC), so he sought her advice.

“My mom told me Laser and Photonics Technology was an emerging program with smaller class sizes,” Alex recalls. “She also said there were plenty of opportunities in the photonics field.” Alex was intrigued; he had always enjoyed working with electronics, so he decided to investigate the program. “After researching and hearing about previous graduates from CCCC’s Laser and Photonics Technology program,” he says, “it was clear that there was a multitude of opportunities and plenty of room for a successful career upon completion of the program.” A conversation with laser and photonics professor Gary Beasley gave him the information he needed to make a decision. “At that point,” he says, “I was confident that there was a wide variety of careers available to laser technicians and that I would find my niche as I went through the program.”

Alex enrolled in the Laser and Photonics Technology program. He found that his biggest challenge was simply keeping up with his work and studies, and his advice to new students reflects that experience. “Stay on top of your work when in the program.” Alex recommends. “If you get behind, it’s difficult to catch up. Things build—it’s not like you have separate sections that are independent of each other; they all build throughout the year. Pay attention, study, and use time management.”

Alex’s dedication to finding a career drove him to succeed. In 2015, he graduated from CCCC with an associate of applied science degree in laser and photonics technology and launched a great career.

Currently, Alex works as a camera systems engineer for Aqueti, Inc., a startup company in Durham, North Carolina. Aqueti is the world leader in large-array camera video capture and rendering. Their biggest contract so far is with Premier Boxing Champions. He describes his work this way: “My role is fabricating and creating cameras and operating them on live television. I also help with tear down and maneuvering of the equipment from location to location.”

“I love the variety of my job! Our company is constantly challenged to build custom cameras. The variety and the constant challenge of trying something new is what keeps it interesting and enjoyable.”

Alex enjoys his work so much that he hopes to pursue additional education in his field. “I’m really happy where I’m working now,” he says. “However, there is always the thought in the back of my mind that I would like to continue my education in electronics or photonics. If I can find a school that’s close enough and that fits my work schedule, it’s a possibility.”

Alex expects his work to expand and change as the field grows. “If you are looking for a career that’s always changing and really interesting, plus you enjoy working hard,” he says, “then a career in lasers and photonics is for you.”

Alex Voytik earned an associate of applied science degree in laser and photonics technology from Central Carolina Community College in 2015. He enjoys spending time with friends and family and cooking together. He also enjoys repairing his own car and traveling when his schedule permits.