Kevin Rodgers
Camden County College

Kevin Rodgers began his college life in the 1980s at Rutgers University, where he loved his role on the university’s hockey team but had no academic or career goals to keep him moving forward. A family friend noticed Kevin’s lack of direction and drive and called his friend, Dr. Otto R. Mauke, who was the president of Camden County College (CCC) at the time. Dr. Mauke recommended that Kevin speak to Fred Seeber, who coordinated Camden’s Laser Electro-Optics Technology (LEOT) program.

Kevin remembers that during one of their first interactions, Dr. Seeber told him that he would be a good fit for the program. It was the first time anyone had said that to him during his collegiate career, and it made him feel good about himself to hear it.

Kevin entered the program expecting a cookie-cutter learning experience: a lecture hall, large classes, and tests to pass. What he found was a dynamic environment, full of hands-on projects and practical experience. “The hands-on experience was incredible,” he recalls. Dr. Seeber had convinced numerous companies to donate lasers to the program, and these lasers allowed Kevin and other students to do independent studies, perform experiments, make holograms, learn how to align and operate lasers, and much more. As Kevin points out, it wasn’t only the laser-based classes that offered hands-on practice: building electronics, making accurate mechanical drawings, and working in the machine shop were all integral to the program. Kevin says that the Laser Electro-Optic Technology program at Camden County College “really set me up for what I did in my future work. I can’t say enough about the program.”

This was the early 1980s, and lasers were still a new and emerging technology and “not something people were generally studying at the time.” Kevin found his coursework exciting and challenging, especially because he decided to pursue an associate of science degree in engineering in addition to an associate of applied science degree in lasers and electro-optic technology. He earned both degrees in 1983, and in 1994, he earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Drexel University.

Kevin is currently the President of Precision Laser Specialist Inc., where he works as an engineer in addition to his presidential duties. His company services medical lasers in offices, clinics, hospitals, and other medical facilities. One of the challenges of his position is making sure his engineers and technicians have the know-how, documentation, and parts necessary to service the many different types and models of lasers that they work on. His job also involves finding substitution parts when a manufacturer won’t share parts, and he finds it highly satisfying to be able to do the research and understand the lasers well enough to find appropriate replacement parts.

Kevin takes pride in making sure that every customer need is met and that customers are satisfied with the job, but what he likes best is knowing that his employees are happy working for him. He has now been in this business for about twenty years and is proud that he still has a great reputation for doing a good job and that the service he offers is of such high quality that he’s been able to keep many of the same customers for all twenty years.

Kevin Rodgers graduated from Camden County College in 1983 with an associate of science degree in engineering and an associate of applied science degree in laser and electro-optic technology (now known as associate of applied science in laser/electro-optic technology). He is very involved in his community and sits on several local boards and committees. Kevin enjoys camping and hiking with his family, golfing, and playing hockey.