Paul Leech

On opportunities in technology: “A good friend helped me obtain a job before I even graduated.”

Before Paul Leech decided to pursue a photonics degree at Camden County College (CCC), he worked as an auto technician at a General Motors. He had just finished high school at the time, and the work and pay seemed decent for a young person just starting out. Because he was a skilled technician, Paul quickly rose to the top of his field. He realized, though, that the top came a bit too quickly. “I found the salary was starting to plateau quite quickly, and it was too low for my liking.” When Paul looked into the future, he realized that his chosen career path wouldn’t offer him the kind of ongoing challenge that he was looking for. Paul’s good friend had completed the photonics program at CCC and “started a nice career that showed a lot of promising success.” Paul realized that the careers that his friends had chosen gave them “unlimited opportunity to grow.” Wanting the same for himself, Paul decided that his next step would be to earn an associate of applied science degree.

Paul was excited to start this part of his life over, and eager to discover the opportunities and challenges that his education would give him. He went into the photonics program with few expectations other than “learning a lot of science, math, and physics,” but soon found an excellent job opportunity. “That good friend helped me obtain a job at (scientific and medical laser manufacturer) ConBio before I even graduated from CCC,” Paul explains. With such a great opportunity lined up, Paul was extremely motivated to complete the program successfully. For two years, he spent his nights working at UPS and his days working even harder to earn his education. When Paul completed his degree and had the opportunity to work as a field service technician at Hoya ConBio, he was thankful that his friend had helped him pursue his dream of working toward a rewarding career.

After working with ConBio, Paul worked as a urology laser technician for Mackin Medical and then as a field service technician for ICN Pharmaceuticals. Eventually, he and three others cofounded a company called Photonics Service Group, Inc. The recession was as hard on his company as it was on most companies, but Paul stuck with it. “I was proud to get through the recession and hit our ten-year anniversary of the company,” he says. Now, Paul is not only a co-owner and field service technician for his company, but also its vice president. Eventually, Paul expects to either sell the company to a larger corporation or take the company public.

Paul is proud of how far he has advanced and believes that his story can serve as an inspiration for those just beginning their careers. Paul’s three core values are integrity, honesty, and communication, which he believes help him create strong and prosperous relationships with clients, customers, and partners. Paul believes that these three qualities, combined with hard work, will allow anyone to grow and succeed.

Paul lives in Haddon Township, New Jersey where he grew up. He often takes his family camping in Jersey Shore. He also enjoys outdoor sports and mountain biking.