Christopher Pluemer

On choosing a photonics education: “A photonics technical degree is a very good choice. It’s a great field with endless possibilities. The more I found out about lasers, the more excited I got. You can work wherever you want and the pay will allow you to live there.”

—Christopher Pluemer, June 30, 2009

Christopher Pluemer is all about efficiency. When he sets a goal, he likes to accomplish it as quickly and as purposefully as possible. He’s happy to chat, as long as there’s a good reason for it. He’s hoping to continue his education, as long as he can apply it to his job.

When Christopher was choosing a career to pursue, his end result was clear for him. He didn’t want to go to school and not be able to get a job when he had finished. When he found out that the laser electro-optics program at Indian Hills Community College (IHCC) in Ottumwa, Iowa, had a job placement rate of 100 percent, he decided that was the path for him. “At first, I was kind of intimidated,” he recalls. “Lasers seemed really complicated and complex, but the more I got to know about them, the more excited I got. They aren’t nearly as complicated as I thought. There are just so many things you can do with lasers. It’s a really good field to be in.”

Even before Christopher graduated, he’d been offered several jobs. “I had offers in Chicago, one in Colorado, and another in California,” he says. He took the job in Colorado a week and a half after he graduated and has been working for Epilog Laser Company for a year and a half. Epilog manufactures laser engravers. Christopher’s job is to manufacture the lasers. The finished product can engrave, cut, and inlay materials such as metals, glass, and wood. “You never know what to expect,” he says. “We have new things to deal with every day, so it never gets boring.”

When considering the future, Christopher is confident in his choice. The degree he received from IHCC gives him ample opportunity to choose where he works. “Epilog provides many opportunities
for growth,” he says confidently. “I think the possibilities for advancement are really good.”
Christopher’s focus and directness are distinct assets in what is sure to be a bright career in photonics.

Christopher Pluemer lives in Golden, Colorado, with his wife and daughter. They enjoy many outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, and bicycling. Christopher received his associate in applied science degree in laser electro-optics technology in 2007 from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.