



David A. “Tony” Smith
Job Seeker of the Month

David A. “Tony” Smith proves that education is a lifelong activity. Just four days after his 53rd birthday, Tony began working toward a Welding and Joining Technologies diploma at Okefenokee Technical College in Waycross.

“I proved that you are never too old to learn a new skill,” said Tony, a native of Nahunta, Ga.

He is putting his new welding and joining skills to use at Carolina Skiff, a Waycross-based boat manufacturer for the Carolina Skiff and Sea Chaser brands. In addition, Tony also works at Paige’s Minit Market in Hortense.

Tony was introduced to Georgia Work Ready during his course work at the technical college, but he decided to take the assessment after discovering that Work Ready Certification was preferred by a company where he was applying.

After becoming certified, Tony accompanied his sister to the Work Ready assessment so she could become certified as well. He credits Okefenokee Technical College for helping him reach a Gold certificate level – and for helping him outscore his little sister.

“I graduated from high school in the 1970s so my math skills were rusty,” said Tony. “Going through a math course at the technical college got me ready for the applied mathematics section of the Work Ready assessment.”

Tony believes that having his Work Ready Certification will help him as he further develops his welding career in South Georgia.

“I don’t think it will be very long before your Work Ready Certificate number will be a permanent part of the application process,” he said. “I look forward to the opportunities this addition to my resume will afford me.”

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