

Craig Anderson – 2008 Award Winner – Red Wing Campus

As a young student exploring the many career options available, Craig Anderson knew he wanted to do something with his passion for music. He also realized he wanted to enjoy a craft and build on his desire to be a "hands on" craftsman. After two years attending Gustavus College in St. Peter, MN, Craig uncovered a little known secret. Here, right in his home state, was a jewel of a program that allowed him to do both.

Craig found himself at Red Wing Technical College when the musical instrument repair programs were just taking flight. He fell in love with the Red Wing community and chose to make it his home while he explored all the intricacies of band instrument repair. As a musician, (trumpet being his favorite) he had the ear and playing ability, but the precision and attention to detail fully awakened the craftsman within.

Craig enjoyed a great new life as he graduated and moved to the southwest, living first as a newlywed in New Mexico and later, as his family grew, living in the Flagstaff, AZ area. His first job was very rewarding as he stayed busy working for a music store that had plenty of horns in need of repair. His work had him traveling throughout all of northeastern Arizona. Along the way he received an invitation he just couldn't refuse – a job offer to move back in the Midwest to work for Allied Supply "This turned out to be a job I love. I rarely -- if ever -- get out of bed in the morning and say, 'I just don't want to go to work today.' Every day I learn something new and on top of that, I am able to help someone, somewhere out of a bind with a part that they need or with information on how to fix something."

"Technical education is great and greatly undervalued. In college you learn how to use your brain but with a technical education you not only get to use your brain, you get to use your hands and you learn how to problem solve real life situations. What we do has real value to many facets of life. Without technical education we wouldn't have plumbers, electricians, car mechanics, nurses, truck drivers, etc; people who keep the world turning and are vital to everyday life."