

Northwest Hardwoods Employee Spotlight

Kenneth Esper
Stacker Lead
Dorchester, WI

On a cold, wintry, morning in January 1979, Kenneth Esper Started his career at the Dorchester location of Northwest Hardwoods. Although, jobs were scarce back then, he managed to get a position as a Lumber Piler and went to work.

Since that first day, Kenneth has been a Lumber Piler, a Stick Layer, a Sawyer, a Lift Operator, a Kiln Assistant, a Stacker Operator, a Trim-Saw Operator, an Export Tally Person, a Proprietary Grader. He worked seven years as a Location Quality Controller. Worked eight years as a Remanufactured Products Supervisor, organized and installed original LumberTracks Inventory system and its tag printers, and even did time as an Assistant Purchaser for yard supplies.

He has been fortunate to travel all over the country for Northwest Hardwoods, and has met a lot of fantastic people, and made many friends that way.

In his personal life he has owned four different homes, and has owned thirty-two different Harley Davidsons. With those motorcycles he has rode with a motorcycle club for twenty years. He has a son who lives on the road as a professional stainless-steel welder. And on top of all that, Kenneth is debt-free and an ordained minister, just in case you're looking!

He strongly believes that anyone can start from the bottom and have an adventurous career at Northwest Hardwoods. The sky's the limit. If you can work hard, safe, and stay focused, you can do anything you want to in this company. Throughout Kenneth's many years with the company he has stacked up quite a list of things he would tell a new employee. Those being: Always volunteer for anything offered, Never be afraid to ask questions and actually remember the answers, Never be afraid to speak up at meetings or with customers, And to Not worry about getting reprimanded for making mistakes and to take part in the necessary process corrections as to not make the same mistakes again.

Kenneth feels that the highlight of his "Back to the Future" time here occurred back when he was in Quality Control. He remembers picking Dennis Kuberry as Quality Controller of the Titusville operation. He is immensely proud in how Dennis went on to become a key player in many of our future acquisitions. Even more so, Dennis is a commendable Northwest Hardwoods employee and an even greater friend.

Kenneth feels that it would be nice if Northwest Hardwoods employees remembered that all opportunities are presented to them, if they are more than willing to work for them. If you cannot find your ideal position, simply try inventing it! There is always room for help in each and every operation around you. Take a Chance!