

MFG TEXAS VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

Jennifer Magallanes
Since 1998
Production Supervisor

I was 19 years old and in college when I heard about a new company that opened in our area. I applied and they called back. I came in for an interview and started on the second shift as an equipment operator.

There is a lot of change. In the beginning I didn't like change but I learned to adjust. I like that we make so many different products as I like to make things with my hands and see the process through, knowing when the final product goes out the door I had something to do with it. Also that I had a part in developing my team to help get the product to completion. That is the best part.

It is good to see the younger generation come in, and even the older generation, and then work with them and teach them how to laminate or how to build a product. Sometimes they don't understand at first or believe in the process and then they buy what you are selling as we show them that they can do it. It is rewarding to see the smile on their faces when they know they have contributed, worked as a team and met a goal as an efficient team.

I would tell a student to get involved in CNC routers. We have CNC machines here. Get involved in programming and advanced technology. This will help them advance here or at another manufacturer. We also have robotics that uses new technology so any exposure to that is helpful too. If they aspire to be a supervisor it helps to get hands on experience. Come in on the shop floor and be a sponge – soak up everything that you can learn, take the knowledge from others and learn and you can move up the ladder as I did.

It is good to work in the community especially when people say – “oh you make those windmill blades.” People in the community talk about us.

It is great to know that we are a big manufacturer out here. We belong to the Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity, United Way and we all contribute to these things in our community. It makes me feel good that our company does that.

Devin Sessums
Since 2012
Production Supervisor

I was looking on line, looking for a new career. There was a listing in the Denton Chronicle and I applied – faxed my application over and within four hours I got a call to come for an interview.

At first when I got here I was over painting the blades. They switched from a gel coat to polyurethane and that is my background. I am a painter by trade before I came to MFG so was bringing some extra knowledge for a new set of blades they called the 37's. Now they are bigger blades – 64's and 65's.

At first I was learning everything there was to learn about blades. Once I left and came back I transitioned into trucks. I got into smaller detail parts and you make more of them and have to be extra critical of the criteria and surface quality of these parts.

A lot of what we do was hand trimming, hand mixing. Now it has turned into a safer infusion LRTM. It is a lot less hand layup and safer for our team mates. Robotics play a big part.

Yes, there is a lot of change. It can be challenging for supervisors as you are dealing with the change of the new technology and often have new smarter team mates. You have to challenge them as well as yourself.

I would tell students to have an open mind. Don't be scared of fiberglass. It is a lasting career. Fiberglass in vehicles and blade technology is not going away. It is something that I encourage you to learn. Something you can talk about for a lifetime from building blades to corvette parts to truck parts it can take you to into the future.

Cesar De la Rosa
Since 2013
Plant Manager

I started in the health care industry in x-rays and MR's. I had a background in composites and have a master's degree in engineering with a focus on composites and reinforced polymers.

I had an opportunity to see how the wind blades worked in 2007 and I was impressed. I was impressed to see the size of the products that manufacturers like MFG could produce and I decided to take an opportunity as a factory engineer. The exciting part of with this technology is it is making a cleaner environment. It is using renewable energy and as Jennifer said, it is a new technology. This is what excites me and keeps me excited still.

Composites have been driven by different industries and MFG supports different industries. We make blades for the wind industry and parts for the heavy truck industry and products for the water treatment industry. Technology is driving these industries. MFG pioneered fiber glass in the automotive industry in the Corvette.

MFG is investing in technology. We have a patented process that helps to build pre forms and do compression molding with their own build to model. It is exciting that the company has invested in resources to develop their own technology to be more competitive and cost effective.

I come from a technical background but I think the best advice I would give students is to focus on what you like. Understand your skill set and where you want to develop yourself.

Engineering has been a passion for me. Whatever a student decides I think manufacturing offers a lot of opportunities. No matter where you begin, as a supervisor or technician, you can develop up to a higher position.

There is a lot of pride when you make a good product of good quality. I think there is a feeling of accomplishment when you see a product going out the door and even better when you see the final product, like the trucks on the highway. It is a great feeling when you know you were a part of it

Jasmine Rodriquez
Since 2016
Human Resources Administrative Assistant

Two of my former co-workers reached out to me and let me know there was a job opening in HR at MFG. My former manager once told me that they could see me in an HR environment. That always stuck with me. When I heard of the position I thought, why not? Let's give it a shot and see if it is something that would work for me and it has.

What I like most is interacting with team mates, knowing I can be a resource for them, helpful, especially here. We have many team mates who speak little to no English so I am able to help them. Communication is a very important part and to be able to be a resource for them, to be able to communicate between managers and employees, it makes me feel really good.

Opportunities – there are many, not only in the plant but in our support groups where we have accounting, engineering, facilities – lots of opportunities. So I think that as a company not only is the manufacturing important but also all of the support groups as we all come together to make these products possible.

I think manufacturing is a great field. There's lots of opportunities. This world is changing so each day there are new products. Manufacturing is always going to be around. I think that is very important.

Being in the HR field I feel like every day is a new day. Every day has its challenges. No day is similar to any other day. And that is what I like about it. There is something new to look forward to each day.

Wesley Shamp
Since 1970
Vice President of Technology and Support

One of the great things about MFG is it is a family owned business with a focus on family. I am actually a second generation MFG employee. My father worked for the company almost from when it started. It was started in 1948 and he started in 1956. So I am a second generation team mate at MFG.

I should go back to when I first started at MFG. I was not a college graduate. I was fresh out of high school, a young kid whose father helped him get a job in the same employment he was involved in and I started out as a common laborer. That division build power boats at the time. I was young and wanted to learn and had a desire that was engrained in me from my upbringing – to work hard and learn as much as I could. I started out as a deck trimmer and moved into product development and became the leader of that department over time. Eventually I became involved in engineering and quality and had an opportunity to go to California.

My goal was to be in a leadership role so I moved to California and learned how to make a product for a customer who was making a wind turbine blade. One thing led to another that brought me to Gainesville, Texas. I was involved in the startup of this plant. And because of my skill, drive and desire I was selected as General Manager for this entity and it has been just about 20 years.

I am in the semi-retirement phase of my career and MFG has been very strong in supporting me in my drive to want to learn more. They are very involved in wanting their team mates to be educated. Although it is very important for our young people to get out and get educated to develop skill sets that provides more opportunity, there are those kids in our community who don't have that opportunity, who don't have the ability to go out and secure higher education. MFG is a great way to begin a career.

MFG has been instrumental in my career in that they have provided me an opportunity for education within the company for advancement and leadership. I would recommend to young people to have a work ethic, to work hard and there is lots of room for that within the MFG organization.

Allison Tunheim
Since 2009
Human Resource Manager

I am the HR manager here. We have many opportunities for students coming out to the workforce. We offer tuition reimbursement. We have great benefits. And we always have opportunities for productive team mates to work and develop. It is just a wonderful company to be able to move up into our career and learn more things.

Many of our team mates speak Spanish. Supervisors and team mates have the opportunity to learn Spanish while working here. They have become bilingual through these efforts– a valuable skill in today's workforce.