



Jared Thompson, Service Manager for Encore Mechanical LLC, shown providing analysis of an HVAC system.

Associated Industries of Texas is a Texas non-profit trade association built to represent industry employers working in collaboration with vocational and trade schools, government agencies, industry associations, suppliers, and other stakeholders committed to promoting and producing a new generation of skilled laborers to power the Texas workforce.

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Jared Thompson graduated from Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Waco on a Friday in 2013 with an Associate Degree in Applied Science of Air Conditioning Technology (ACT). He started his career the very next day.



Today, as the Service Manager for Encore Mechanical, he has parlayed that degree – as well as a passion for working with his hands – into a leadership position and a technical career that satisfies that passion while providing an accelerated track to a fulfilling and financially rewarding future all before turning 30.

"Throughout high school, I found what intrigued me most was the three years of welding class, simply because it was the only hands-on/technical outlet that I had" Jared explains. "I often had a hard time engaging myself in "regular" classes because it just didn't interest me, and it was the plethora of interest in my hands on course in which I excelled that lead to my decision against the traditional 4-year college route."

It was the influence and support of his mother, an uncle, and his first boss who all three guided him to TSTC and into a career that was less conventional and more practical for the young man who now does not second-guess any of his career decisions. "I knew I didn't have the interest or the financial patience for four years in a traditional university" Thompson says. "I knew that a 2-year track in a technical college would lead to earning a good wage in a shorter period than the traditional route. What I did not know was how my decision would lead to advanced responsibilities so much quicker than my friends that went on to get 4-year degrees."

While Jared was confident in his choice to attend TSTC, his chosen field was less obvious at the time. "One day my mom and I drove down to TSTC and visited the campus. I looked into auto mechanics, welding, and air conditioning. AC immediately grabbed my attention because I saw what was involved - physics, chemistry, electricity, and controls all coming together. It was the clear choice for me."

Now that Jared is established in the industry, he is working to help change the perception of those who choose a career as a skilled trade professional. "I'm very proud and happy where I am today, so I really dislike the stigma that sometimes surrounds those who choose a trade," he says. "I think often about how we can change that perception and hope to contribute to doing so."

John Reynal, owner of Encore Mechanical, says Jared's skills go far beyond anything technical. "Jared is one of those dynamic individuals that is both technically savvy and personable," Reynal says. "It gives him the ability to participate in diagnosis and troubleshooting as well as figuratively step aside from the technical matter to communicate clearly with other stakeholders such as design professionals and real estate developers on a level that they appreciate."

When it comes to communicating, Jared is confident in his message to young people. "Don't let other's perceptions dictate the choices you make when it comes to a career," he says. "Don't choose a traditional career path just because of someone else's expectation. Do what interests you because that ultimately will provide you with the passion you need to enjoy your work."

Jared Thompson is a prime example of how a skilled trades career can be a great fit for anyone looking for a well-paying, highly satisfying career in a high demand industry.

Encore Mechanical LLC is a Southlake, TX based mechanical contracting and service business that is primarily focused on installing and servicing Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) HVAC systems in commercial and public properties.