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**PRESS RELEASE**

**November 2, 2023**

**Travis Smith Completes Machinist Apprenticeship Program at Micro Craft**

Mr. Travis Smith of Taft, TN, has successfully earned his Journeyman’s Certificate for the Machinist Apprenticeship Program at Micro Craft, Inc. This extensive program is sponsored by the United States Department of Labor. Micro Craft - with great effort and conviction, has never wavered on emphasizing the importance of technical skill and craftsmanship in the workforce. Micro Craft strongly believes this is best achieved by combining classroom education with hands-on training.

“We are very proud of Mr Smith’s accomplishments” stated, Mr. Paul Lindlau, President, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Micro Craft, Inc. He added, “This is a rigorous four-year program that combines eighteen-months of course work at the Tennessee College for Applied Technology (TCAT) along with four years or 8000 hours of on-the-job training at Micro Craft. I view this as an equivalent to a Bachelor of Science in manufacturing.”

Mr. John Statum, Operations Manager added, “We realized that most manufacturers had stopped developing skilled machinists several years ago and they had abandoned the apprenticeship program training method. The training required is expensive and time-consuming for a company, but we recognize it as an investment in Micro Craft’s future. We have three apprentices remaining in the program currently and plan to hire more in the future.”

“The company’s mission for future generations has now been revived by the restoration of the Machinist Apprenticeship Program,” according to Ms. Teena Welch, Human Resources Manager, “Mr. Smith has demonstrated the talent, tenacity, and resolve required by an employee to complete such a rigorous program.”

Mr. Larry Phelps, Machinist 10-Team Lead added, “Machining in our field is more like artwork. The apprenticeship program takes the knowledge learned in the classroom and on the shopfloor, then combining the two through on the job training with the guidance of more an experienced machinist to develop a well-trained and talented machinist.”

The Micro Craft Apprenticeship Program had been dormant since 2005. In 2017, the Micro Craft management team recognized the need for the program. This was not a trivial exercise to reinstate the program. During the period of inactivity, the organization offering the class work had shifted from Community College’s to the TCAT’s. The Micro Craft team had to revamp the program based on the coursework offered at the TCAT and the on-the-job training at Micro Craft to meet the guidelines of the Department of Labor Apprentice program.

Since 1958, Micro Craft, Inc. has provided support to the aerospace industry, NASA, and the Department of Defense (DOD) with prototype models and flight hardware. Throughout its history, Micro Craft has supported such programs as the Apollo moon landing and multiple hypersonic development projects. Micro Craft, Inc. has been employee-owned (ESOP) since 2011 and is a certified Small Business that is AS9100 Rev. D certified, providing engineering, manufacturing, quality assurance, and testing services.

For Additional Information:  
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Certificate Presentation (from left to right) – Ms. Teena Welch, Human Resources Manager, Mr. John Statum (Operations Manager), Mr. Travis Smith (Machinist), Mr. Tim Henson (Team Leader) and Mr. Paul Lindlau (President/CEO).