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FASTENER TRAINING WEEK GRADS TAKE LEARNING BACK TO THE OFFICE

Eleonor Maturan and Chase Wertz had the opportunity to attend Fastener Training Week (FTW) in Chicago last August, thanks to support and encouragement from their employer, TR Fastenings (TR). Maturan is an internal account lead in electronics and has been with TR since 2018. Wertz started in the industry at TR three years ago and is now an automotive internal sales lead.

"I was all over it," shared Wertz about his excitement when management reached out with the offer to attend. "I wanted to improve myself and improve for the company," he added. Maturan was honored when she was selected by her management team for the FTW opportunity.

Wertz works with his engineering team on a daily basis for drawings, specifications and materials. After attending FTW, he feels better connected to engineering and is more confident technically. "It gave me the chance to get out from behind the computer and gain hands-on knowledge," he said.

Maturan prides herself on making sure her customers are happy and deliveries are on-time. Her new knowledge helps guide her when completing sales orders, purchase



orders and preparing quotes. "It was really interesting to see how the parts I sell are made," she said. The education about materials, including grades and finishes, has enabled Maturan to have better dialogue with her customers. "As a salesperson, the training has helped me better respond to different kinds of inquiries from both my existing customers and new customers," she said.

FTW has benefited Wertz with a better understanding of the industry, the products he sells, and varying points of view from engineering, quality and manufacturing. "By understanding these areas more, it has helped me with the quoting process so I can help customers select better products and pricing options," shared Wertz.

Highlights of the week were plenty, including tours of manufacturing processes at Semblex and SWD, Inc. As for classroom instruction and hands-on exercises, standout topics were materials, parts, specifications, standards, gaging and tensile strength. "The instructors were excellent," said Wertz. Getting to know other professionals in the industry across the states and in Mexico was an added bonus they agreed.





Since completion of FTW, Maturan and Wertz both passed the final exam and are now Certified Fastener



Specialists™ (CFS). “It was my personal goal for the course to become a CFS,” said an enthusiastic Maturan. The two are glad they had the opportunity to attend FTW and grateful to TR for supporting continuing education.

Fastener Training Week is five-days of accelerated fastener training and plant tours. After passing a final exam, students are eligible for CFS™ designation. There are three Fastener Training Weeks planned for 2024; the first is April 8-12 in Cleveland, followed by August 19-23 in Chicago and November 18-22 in Cleveland.

For more information about FTI or to register for a class/event, Visit *Fastener Training Institute* online at www.fastenertraining.org. 