

Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc.



Inside *cwm*
An Inside Look at
Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc.



Excellence is Expected.

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Judy Rhodes: Career Perspectives

Judy Rhodes's journey with Chicago White Metal Casting began in the year 2000, marking the onset of a career path characterized by dedication, growth, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. With 18 years of prior experience in the accounting field, Judy found herself drawn to CWM's unique blend of responsibilities. Initially hired as an Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable Generalist, Judy saw in CWM an opportunity for professional growth, and personal fulfillment as well.

What captivated Judy from the outset was CWM's motto – "Excellence is Expected." It wasn't merely a slogan but a guiding principle that resonated deeply with her values. The desire to be part of a company where excellence and pride in workmanship were paramount fueled Judy's decision to join CWM. Moreover, the prospect of long-term career growth and the chance to contribute to both accounting and HR functions further solidified her commitment to the company.

Throughout her tenure at CWM, Judy's role evolved in tandem with her aspirations and the changing needs of the organization. In 2001, she embraced additional HR responsibilities, delving into areas such as benefits, workers' compensation, and training. Subsequently, under the mentorship of seasoned professionals such as Tony LoCoco, Judy's expertise in accounting flourished. Her dedication was evident as she pursued completing her college degree in the evenings while working full-time, eventually earning her Bachelor's degree in 2009 from Robert Morris University of Illinois.

With each promotion, Judy's responsibilities expanded, culminating in her current appointment as Manager of Accounting and HR Services in 2020. Her journey is a shining example of her unwavering commitment to personal and professional development, propelled by the supportive environment fostered by CWM.

Longevity and Company Culture:

Judy's enduring commitment to CWM over two decades can be attributed to the company's culture of care and continuous growth. At CWM, associates are not merely employees but integral members of a thriving family. Judy's journey of growth and learning has been nurtured by CWM's unwavering support, fostering a reciprocal commitment to the company's success.

Advice for Aspiring Professionals:

When it comes to providing advice to aspiring professionals, Judy echoes the core tenets of CWM's cultural pillars: maintain a positive attitude, respect your colleagues, uphold your commitments, be of service to all, and communicate with integrity and transparency. These principles, she believes, are not only fundamental to success in the workplace but also essential in life.

Professional Development:

Judy emphasizes the importance of ongoing professional development, facilitated by CWM's partnerships with industry experts and organizations. By staying current with industry trends and best practices, Judy ensures that she remains a valuable asset to the company and a source of support for her colleagues..



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Ensuring Safety, One Audit at a Time

In the bustling corridors of Chicago White Metal Casting, there's a familiar figure who strides purposefully through the factory floor every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. His name is Israel Cabral, a stalwart member of the CWM family for five years now. But it's not just his tenure that sets him apart; it's his unwavering dedication to ensuring the safety of his colleagues that truly distinguishes him.

It all began in May of 2023 when CWM's Director of Purchasing Dan O'Connor, recognized Israel's exceptional work ethic and entrusted him with a critical responsibility: conducting safety audits. Since then, Israel has become the linchpin of safety at CWM, diligently carrying out his duties with a meticulous eye and a genuine concern for his coworkers.



At the heart of Israel's role are his bi-weekly safety audits, which kick off promptly at 8:00 am. Armed with his checklist and a determination to leave no stone unturned, Israel embarks on his rounds, traversing the various departments of the facility.

He starts with each die casting department, then to the STRIKO furnace, shipping and receiving, CNC and conventional machining area, assembly area, maintenance, and tool rooms. Israel methodically inspects every machine, checks dates on safety equipment, and ensures that everyone is wearing their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). But his responsibilities don't end there. Israel's keen eye is trained to detect potential hazards lurking in the corners amidst the machinery. He promptly marks these spots for immediate attention, preventing accidents before they have a chance to occur.



Yet, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Israel's audits is his interaction with his colleagues. Far from being an intimidating figure, Israel is greeted with smiles and nods wherever he goes. His genuine interest in the well-being of his fellow workers shines through as he engages them in conversation, listening to their concerns, and offering guidance where needed.

For Israel, safety isn't just a box to be checked; it's a deeply held belief. He understands that each audit he completes contributes to the overall culture of safety at CWM, making it a place where employees can thrive without fear of harm.

As the morning sun filters through the factory, Israel wraps up another successful round of audits, knowing that he has played his part in making Chicago White Metal a safer place to work. And as he heads back to his workspace, his mind already turning to the next set of inspections, there's a sense of satisfaction that comes from knowing that his efforts are helping to keep his colleagues safe.



Congratulations!



Special congratulations are in order for Mayela and Daniel Lechuga! Mayela and Daniel, both longtime employees at CWM, met here in 2014. What started as a professional connection soon blossomed into a deep and meaningful relationship.

As the years passed, Mayela and Daniel's relationship grew stronger, weathering the ups and downs of both personal and professional life. Their colleagues often witnessed their unwavering support for each other, whether overcoming challenges at work or celebrating personal achievements.

The wedding, a celebration of love and commitment, reflected Mayela and Daniel's personalities. It blended elegance with light-heartedness, creating a memorable event for everyone. Friends and family gathered to witness the union of two individuals who found love in the most unexpected place. From everyone at CWM, congratulations!

"God's timing is always perfect, his love for us is the best gift for our family." — Mayela and Daniel Lechuga.



Bragging Rights - Libia Rincon

Libia Rincon, a CWM CNC Team Lead, is proud of her daughter Marien and her cheerleading accomplishments! They also added a new member to the family, Tommy!



2023 Service Awards

10 Years



Cindy Nasser

10 Years



Javier Moreno

10 Years



Gonzalo Lechuga

10 Years



Mayela Lechuga

15 Years



Crecencio Delgado

15 Years



Erika Morell

15 Years



Tracy Stoner

15 Years



Crisanta Mora

25 Years



Rajiv Patel

25 Years



Eugene Thomas

25 Years



Manrique Barrera

30 Years



Connell Wood

40 Years



Tom Mrock

40 Years



Fred Loots

CWM's Christmas Luncheon

Amid the challenges of the past couple of years, the spirit of togetherness and celebration triumphed at Chicago White Metal (CWM) as the company joyfully hosted its first Christmas Luncheon since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The air was filled with warmth and camaraderie as employees gathered, eager to reconnect and share in the festive cheer.

The event not only marked a return to cherished traditions but also served as a poignant reminder of resilience and unity within the CWM family.



CWM's Outstanding Performers of the Month 2023

January

February

March

April

May

June



Humberto Duarte



Erika Morell



Mayela Lechuga



Yaneth Palacios



Cindy Fiala



Mayela Lechuga

July

August

September

October

November

December



Nick Ninkovich



Marco Funes



Israel Cabral



Teodoro Funes



Yeraldi Hernandez



Daniel Lechuga

Outstanding Performer of the Year 2023: Daniel Lechuga

Congratulations to Daniel Lechuga, CWM's Outstanding Performer of the Year! As an Automation Specialist, Daniel demonstrated exceptional dedication and excellence by successfully automating multiple CNC machines in 2023, showcasing his technical prowess. What truly sets Daniel apart is his willingness to assist his colleagues, making him a valuable team player. Beyond his primary role, Daniel generously supports the Maintenance Department, reflecting his dedication to the overall success of our team.

Join us in celebrating Daniel's well-deserved success, as his hard work, positive spirit, and unwavering commitment to safety and quality contribute to making CWM a fantastic workplace! Cheers to Daniel, our Outstanding Performer of the Year!



CWM's New Employee: Sunny Patel



Chicago White Metal is excited to welcome Sunny Patel to our IT department. Sunny brings a wealth of experience and a passion for technology that promises to make significant contributions to our team.



During his high school years, Sunny found his calling when he joined the VEX Robotics competition team. This experience ignited his passion for problem-solving through the lens of technology, whether it was working with hardware or software. While Sunny's professional career in IT may be relatively short, his enthusiasm and drive are unmistakable.

Sunny obtained his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Iowa in the fall of 2021. His professional journey started at Harper College, where he served as a student systems analyst, handling various responsibilities such as vendor integrations, ETL pipelining, and application support. Later, at Crystal Lab, Sunny established data pipelines, automating business and quality assurance workflows.



When faced with unexpected challenges, Sunny adopts a methodical yet adaptable approach. He emphasizes the importance of creating a guided plan of action while remaining flexible to adapt to evolving circumstances. Sunny's ability to tackle challenges head-on and stay adaptable is a valuable asset in a dynamic IT environment.

One of Sunny's proudest achievements was his role as the Technical Lead for the Iowa Formula Racing Control System Sub-Team during his time at the University of Iowa. He led the team in expanding the organization, securing sponsorships, and achieving technical milestones.

Outside of work, Sunny enjoys cooking, playing guitar, and disc golfing. Sunny's arrival at CWM brings a blend of technical expertise, problem-solving skills, and a passion for innovation. His commitment to excellence and dedication to continuous improvement align perfectly with CWM's Cultural Pillars. We look forward to the contributions he will make in driving our technological initiatives forward!

Judy's Perspectives Continued

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Personal Accomplishments:

Outside of her professional achievements, Judy's greatest joy comes from her role as a parent to her daughter, Arielle. The bond they share serves as a source of inspiration and motivation, reminding Judy of the importance of balance and perspective in both her personal and professional life. Arielle works hard academically, and like her mom, strives to do her absolute best. Judy is very proud of her daughter.



Judy is a person of many passions, but music holds a special place in her heart. She was born and raised in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. During the summer months, her parents and siblings enjoyed camping in Angola, Indiana. The campground weekly hosted Country and Western stars who performed at its outdoor venue at the campground. She had a front row view of artists like Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton on these trips. Their music resonated deeply within her and this truly ignited her love for music.

Judy's love for music blossomed into a fervent hobby. She taught herself to play the guitar, spending hours practicing and learning with friends. In her late teens and through her thirties she played both guitar and bass with a few bands. But it wasn't just playing music that brought her joy; it was the thrill of exploring new instruments. Trips to Guitar Center or Sam Ash music stores became her favorite pastime, where they allow customers to try out different instruments to their heart's content.

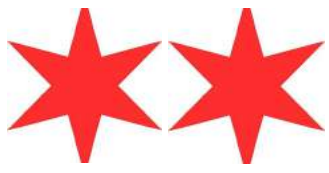
In addition to the guitar, just most recently, Judy has taken on the goal of learning to play the drums. She knows the amount of dedication and perseverance that's required, but she is determined to conquer this challenge.

Along with her love for music, Judy's heart is also filled with compassion for others. Inspired by her own experiences and those of her loved ones, she has become a dedicated supporter of METAvivor, an organization committed to finding a cure for metastatic breast cancer.

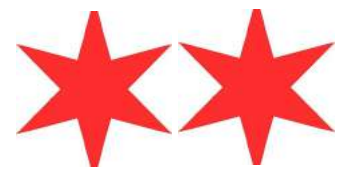
CWM Gives Back: Toys for Tots

For over a decade, Chicago White Metal has been dedicated to spreading joy during the holiday season by contributing to Toys for Tots. This year marks our 12th consecutive year of participation, a testament to our commitment to giving back to the community. Throughout our facility, donation spots have been established, providing employees and visitors alike with the opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting Toys for Tots and bringing smiles to children's faces during the holidays.





R&D Makeover: 2023



Chicago White Metal opted to undergo a transformative change in the aesthetics of our R&D upstairs work area, transitioning from Native American decor to a captivating showcase of Chicago sports memorabilia. This ambitious project unfolded over the course of 2023, and was initiated by the passionate sports enthusiast and CWM COO, Bill Baraglia. Recognizing the profound connection between the city of Chicago and Chicago White Metal, Baraglia envisioned a space that would resonate with the local community and employees alike, celebrating the rich sports heritage of the Windy City.

Taking the reins of this ambitious project was Marketing Manager Dan Jacobson, a dedicated member of the CWM team. Jacobson led the initiative from inception to completion, ensuring that the transformation not only met but exceeded expectations. His meticulous planning and commitment to the project's success were instrumental in bringing the vision to life.

Guiding the artistic direction of the makeover was Account Manager Jim Galin, whose creative flair and attention to detail played a pivotal role in the placement and arrangement of every piece of memorabilia. Galin's expertise ensured that the collection seamlessly blended with the workspace, creating an atmosphere that reflected the passion and pride associated with Chicago sports.

A distinctive aspect of this sports memorabilia collection is its authenticity, with every item being original and true to the date displayed. This commitment to genuine artifacts not only adds historical value to the display but also underscores the dedication of CWM to preserving the legacy of Chicago's sports culture. The revamped R&D upstairs now stands as a testament to the company's commitment to its roots, fostering a sense of camaraderie and connection among its employees while embracing the vibrant spirit of Chicago sports.

Step into our newly redesigned office and experience the transformation firsthand! We extend our heartfelt thanks to Bob Yant, Timothy Buckley, Brian Andrews, Fred Loots, Margo Higgins, and Eric Treiber for their invaluable contributions. Come explore our revitalized space and discover the passion and creativity behind every detail.





Mission Statement & Cultural Pillars

*Create success by enriching the lives of others,
including our Chicago White Metal associates and
their families, our customers, suppliers,
and those who live and work in our
surrounding communities.*

Positive
Attitude



Respect



Commitments



Not Catering
to Rank



Transparency



Inside CWM is published by Chicago White Metal Casting. It contains up-to-date news for all our employees, valued customers, sales representatives, friends, and supplier partners who are all equally vital to our success.

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