

## Commercial Machine Inc., a Richmond Success Story!



Meet Mr. Robert L. Jones, owner and Registered Apprenticeship sponsor of Commercial Machine Inc. Commercial has been a sponsor since 1970 and he apprentices machinists from his Northside Richmond, Virginia shop. The business is coming up on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Jones is a steady sponsor of apprenticeship and as vacancies come open, he can quickly select a new apprentice. He first thought he would become an engineer and attended one semester at Richmond Professional Institute, the forerunner of Virginia Commonwealth University. But, he remembered back to a time when he was at the Miller School of Albemarle when he was able to put his hands on the Post Drill Press pictured above. He liked machining back then and quickly found himself as an entrepreneur, renting a small corner from another business in Richmond.

Today, he has around 18 or so employees who enjoy a good wage and a nice work-life balance. For over 35 years, Commercial has worked 4 ½ days with an early finish on Friday. His employees are able to

have a bit more personal time for family, errands, fishing or whatever they prefer. He provides benefits and enjoys a loyal workforce. Most of his vacancies are quickly filled by word of mouth. Donna Carvana, also pictured with Mr. Jones is the Registered Apprenticeship Consultant who signs up his new apprentices (who start between 12 and 14 dollars an hour) and also sees them through to the end.

The Post Drill Press was in the Miller School of Albemarle and Mr. Jones was able to procure it as a memento of this little piece of history that ignited his occupational dreams. Congratulations on your upcoming 50 year anniversary of your business and thank you for demonstrating the gold standard as a proud supporter of Registered Apprenticeship.

