



# I MAKE YOUR PETS HEALTHIER.

**BLAKE PARKER | Group Leader**  
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.



## BLAKE'S STORY

I've been with Boehringer more than three years now and what excites me most is the variety of projects and responsibilities that I have each day as we produce various kinds of medicine for animals. My typical work day consists of 20 percent troubleshooting, 10 percent meetings, 20 percent process improvement, 20 percent employee development, 15 percent requesting quotes and purchasing, 5 percent SOP testing and 10 percent correspondence.

What surprises me most about my position at Boehringer is the growth and pace.



## BLAKE'S PATH

When I began attending Hillyard Technical School, I was looking for something to do with my time in the evenings. I had no knowledge of machining, really, but I thought it sounded interesting. In fact, when I called Hillyard, I was interested in welding classes but they were full. Looking back, I'm certainly glad that was the case.

I had a great instructor named Dennis Merrit who encouraged me to go to Milford, Neb., to pursue an associate's degree in machine tool. I followed that path and close to graduation started networking with fellow former graduates. They led me to Reardon Machine. Manufacturing, like any career choice, is helped greatly by developing relationships and continuously striving for growth. For me it took some years for the right people to take notice of my talent and drive, but patience certainly paid off. At the time of my transition to Boehringer, I had 14-plus years in the machining industry and some experience working on and improving pharmaceutical equipment.

I was recruited to apply for a Field Engineer position in the Aseptic Filling Department at Boehringer. After three years, a position was created to oversee a group of six or seven employees inside the department I was hired to earlier this year. My prior experience and training meant a transition to a pharmaceutical manufacturer like Boehringer made sense.



Being aggressive in regards to your future is the best way to find success. Don't just be reliable, be dedicated. Be helpful. When you see a problem, find a solution – but better yet, find three solutions. I have two degrees and a wall of certifications, but it's how I use those tools that has benefited me the most.

Life can certainly have some obstacles. Usually the answer for me has been found in perseverance and planning. My best advice for students who are considering manufacturing is that patience is important. Try to position yourself with the right people to learn from, and avoid burning bridges. Recognize those who can contribute. Keep as current as you can and embrace change.



**“An employee will want to build long-term professional relationships with those that have more experience and avoid situations where they may be tempted to burn bridges with coworkers. Manufacturing is highly collaborative.”**



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