

# CELEBRATING CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION



## Ted Ventre

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### How Did You Get Started In The Skilled Trades?

Living on eastern Long Island 20 years ago, I began helping a friend care for his large tree nursery to make extra money on the weekends. I liked it so much I began working on a landscape installation crew as a general laborer. I was promoted from this role to crew leader in just one year. Over several years at different landscaping companies in multiple states, I viewed every role I held as an opportunity to learn and grow. This mindset always resulted in the chance to take on additional responsibility and become a more valuable employee, from crew leader to equipment operator to project manager, division manager and finally owner/operator of my own company.



### If You Could Do It All Over Again, Would You Choose The Same Career Path?

Absolutely. No regrets all.

### What Do You Love About Your Career?

Working with living plant material is special in a way that is hard to describe. Every day we sustain life in some small way, literally improving and protecting the natural world we share with each plant we install or care for. This work attracts a special kind of person - good eggs who are passionate and talented and fun!

### What's Your Advice For A Young Person Unsure About The Future And A Career Path?

No matter what you do, be open to new opportunity. Learn something new and improve yourself each day. Doing these simple things opens doors and makes you highly valuable to current and future employers. Plus, it's always fun to know something new!

