



WORK — SERVE

NTCC Texas Community College

When Matthew Menard came to America from China eight years ago, he probably didn't know Northeast Texas Community College existed - and he certainly didn't know how much it would impact his life after high school.

Matthew moved to Mount Pleasant after being adopted by a local family and he graduated from MPHS in 2019. Community college made good sense, so he decided to attend NTCC to pursue an associates degree in computer science.

One day he noticed a post on social media about NTCC's Work4College Program, which gives students (high school juniors through adults) the opportunity

to work in meaningful jobs on campus to earn money and help pay for their college in advance. In addition to working, participants also complete community service and take classes that teach important life skills.

Matthew applied to the program and was accepted for the summer of 2019. Since he had an interest and aptitude for technology, he was assigned to work with NTCC's Computer Services team.

"We learned to repair internet cables, program computers, replace hardware and solve computer issues. I had a great experience learning from that. It's all about teamwork for this program and I really enjoyed being part of the team," Matthew said.

As Matthew entered his freshman year at NTCC, he had already earned enough money through Work4College to pay for many of his expenses. Additionally, he received the very competitive Jim and LaRue Shanahan Scholarship from the NTCC Foundation.

He completed his second year of Work4College this summer and continues to be an asset to the Computer Services team.



"Matthew embodies the kind of students we look for in Work4College. While he was shy and reserved, he was willing to learn and work hard," Dr. Jonathan McCullough, NTCC Executive Vice President for Advancement, said. "We have watched him grow in confidence and he has developed skills that will benefit him long after he leaves NTCC."

Matthew plans to transfer to a university to finish a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. He recognizes his Work4College sponsor, Sandra Issing, as being a big factor in his success.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program. It has allowed me to experience something I had never done in my life before. Thank you so much," Matthew said.

To learn more about the Work4College Program visit work4college.com or contact McCullough at 903-434-8115.