GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

MICHAEL CERASI

PROJECT MANAGER & FTI INSTRUCTOR

SPOTLIGHT

On Michael Cerasi:

Title Project Manager & Estimator for Twindows, Inc. (Phila., PA), which specializes in public school projects in PA, NJ, and DE

Hometown Swedesboro, NJ

Family Wife Lauren, daughter Lexi (age 3), and son Andrew (age 1)

FTI Courses Taught NABCEP solar, door hardware, mirror installation, caulking, storefront entranceways, and curtain wall

ABOUT MIKE

Michael Cerasi became a glazier on March 20, 2006. The date is imprinted on his memory as the start of a great career. A friend encouraged him to consider glazing and despite it taking him three years to make the decision, he hasn't looked back. Today, Mike is a project manager and estimator for Twindows, Inc.

"It's definitely a family environment," Mike describes. "Everyone looks out for everyone's best interest." He sees evidence of this family atmosphere not only in the team effort on projects but when the glazing community rallies to help an individual or family. "If people ask for help, there's always a big turnout."

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Although Mike spent his early glazing career in the field, he transitioned in 2015 to an office role. As the sole project manager responsible for overseeing Twindows' work, Mike ensures every job is successful. He generally manages three to four crews at a time. From pursuing work and preparing estimates to fielding calls and mitigating challenges, Mike sees all facets and phases of a project.

"When you're in the field, you don't realize all that goes into a project," he explains. "You never realize how long everything takes to come to fruition or how much paperwork is involved in getting from A to Z."

From his office perspective, Mike appreciates the intense management required to ensure the crews in the field are able to do their jobs. From delayed trucks to broken down glass tempering ovens, there are constant reminders of the intricacy of the process. Mike's advice: everyone has to work together.

At left: Mike and glaziers installing interior glass partitions at the Center for Architecture in Philadelphia

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mike was able to earn his bachelor's degree through a Department of Labor grant from the National Labor College. His education at the Finishing Trades Institute prompted him to pay it forward. Today, he serves as an FTI instructor for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners solar class and teaches second and third year apprentices about door hardware, mirror installation, caulking, storefront entranceways, and curtain wall. He has taught OSHA safety courses as well.

"When I first started teaching, I was really nervous. I had never stood up and spoken to a group before," Mike recalls. "Now I find it rewarding when at the end of a class guys come up and say they really learned something. I like seeing people realizing and understanding."

FAVORITE PROJECT

Mike recently managed a comprehensive glazing project for Cumberland County College in Vineland, N.J. The glazing scope included new windows, storefront, curtain wall, doors, and specialty laminated glass. It touched on almost everything Twindows does and Mike was responsible for all of the coordination. He attributes his project management strength to being very organized.

Recently Mike also participated on the glazing team for the Center for Architecture's interior renovation in Philadelphia, Pa. The team installed multiple glass applications including two sets of demountable doors and sidelites, new glass to provide an acoustic barrier above the center's conference room garage doors, and interior glass partitions in cased openings between the AIA Philadelphia offices and main hallway.

ADVICE FOR APPRENTICES

Mike says he continues to learn from everyone he works with and says he takes full advantage of every opportunity being a glazier has afforded him. He adds that every job is different. As a glazing project manager, he isn't seeing the same things every day, which can be both challenging and rewarding. Today, where he is in his career - through hard work and attention to detail - means he sees all stages of a project, from bidding to awarding jobs to completion. "That's pretty interesting."

"Learn everything you can. Take every opportunity given to you."
- Mike Cerasi

At right: Mike and glaziers at the Center for Architecture; Mike meeting a Glazier Academy candidate; Mike with his wife Lauren; son Andrew; daughter Lexi