

By Shanika P. Carter

Jerey Pedelty's life journey has shaped his style as an instructor.

Although his own first attempt at the college experience was not successful, it did not stop him from returning to school to obtain several degrees and eventually come to serve as a full-time instructor at Montcalm Community College (MCC).

Pedelty joined MCC in January 2020 as a lab instructor and in August 2022 began his role as the college's full-time Advanced Industrial Technology Instructor. He said college was always a struggle for him with difficult learning in the classroom.

"I came back as a non-traditional student and had to work to put myself through school," he said, adding that this time in his life included plenty of "speed bumps and curve balls" that contributed to the baggage he was already carrying when he returned to pursue higher education.

Pedelty, who teaches fluid power, PC servicing, precision measurement and the industrial process at MCC, now holds bachelor-level degrees in industrial electronics technology, operations management with an emphasis in manufacturing and supply chain logistics, electrical electronics engineering technology, and a master's degree in technical education, all from Ferris State University.

After working in a variety of industry roles, from making apple juice to car parts, Pedelty has also worked in high-end audio and television repair. In addition, he worked in communications/crypto security while serving in the Army and became a communications section chief while in the Michigan National Guard. This extensive technological background has made Pedelty a hands-on, experienced candidate for teaching

technology to others at the high school level, university, and now, community college level.

"I believe in experiential learning," Pedelty said, explaining how the one that does the work gains the knowledge.