

Employee Spotlight: Jakub Zagorski

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Jakub Zagorski is a Business Unit Manager at Nylok. Read this post to learn more about Jakub's journey from machine operator to mentor and manager. Jakub makes a guest appearance in the 2023 Spring All Employee Video - if you haven't watched yet be sure to check it out!

Employee Spotlight

In today's world where job hopping has become the norm, longevity and dedication is a breath of fresh air. In this edition of our Employee Spotlight, we're sharing [Nylok](#) Business Unit Manager, Jakub Zagorski's unique career journey from machine operator to manager and mentor. (We're pretty sure he's secretly a superhero, but we're not complaining — we're just grateful to have him in the Marmon family.)

Immigrating with his family from Poland to the United States, Illinois specifically, at nine years old, initially Jakub didn't know which career path he wanted to explore. By the time he got to high school, he started working a part-time labor job and taking night classes in management at Northeastern University. One day a friend of his Dad's, who happened to be a Nylok employee, told him that the local manufacturing plant was looking for machine operators. Jakub decided to go in for an interview, got hired and started training on his first machine the next day.

For the past 12 years, Jakub's been a fixture at Nylok, bringing his infectious energy and unwavering dedication to everything he does. Early on, essentially working as a "floater" allowed him to experience different parts of the company from learning the forklift to quality control, and shipping and receiving, as he worked his way up. One of the things that has kept him at Nylok has been what he describes as the strong culture of encouragement and valuing promoting

from within. “I never felt like there was a ceiling here. I learned pretty quickly that if you wanted to learn something new or move into a new role you could,” he says.

As he continued to grow with the company, Jakub’s colleague Jennifer Reichardt and Nylok General Manager, Pete Henley, both became supportive mentors, helping him to transition to a technician role with more flexible hours that allowed him to continue taking college courses. He then took full advantage of Marmon’s Educational Assistance Program, helping him to pay for school and eventually graduate five years later with “lots of great job experience” along the way.

A turning point came with the help and guidance of another mentor, Vito Sperando, current Future Metals President, who Jakub credits with creating a focused, two-year career plan that helped him become the Plant Manager at age 26—the youngest in Nylok’s history. Three years later he was offered his current role as Business Unit Manager, and continues to be inspired by all of the help he’s received on his journey. “I’ve be able to learn so much about the business side of the company,” he says. “I would tell anyone who is interested in manufacturing to not be afraid to fail or to try new things outside of your wheelhouse...being outside of your comfort zone is what will help you grow.”

So, what’s the most exciting thing about what he does?

“New products! Getting to take them globally to expand globally overseas,” he says. “Also, bringing in talented people and designated teams to help grow the business.”

Jakub’s full circle moment has been developing over the last year with him transitioning from being focused on finance and the company’s bottom line to becoming more of a mentor and a leader. “We have a lot of young talented people here and I’m helping them the way Pete and Vito did with me and I’m being more than just a manager. If you want to learn new things just ask. At a great company like Nylok, and Marmon overall, you’ll be supported and rewarded.”

Inspired by Jakub’s story? Let us know what you think in the comments below. You can learn more about Jakub in the [2023 Spring All-Employee Video](#).