



## MARINE & MARITIME CAREER FAIR “Peer to Peer Mentors”

MITCHELL BELL

*“Start out by using what you know...with an eye toward the future.”*

2015 Marine & Maritime Career Fair—February 2015  
[www.eycfoundation.org](http://www.eycfoundation.org)

### **Mitchell's Advice to Peers:**

—As a landlubber myself, I am proof that you can come into this field without a background on the water.

—Talk to anyone with boats or a background on or around the water. Once you realize how many different things go on around the water it will become apparent how many job opportunities are out there.

—Keep your eyes open whenever you're on or around the water. Observe the boats, machinery, people, and envision the job opportunities.

**Mitchell Bell, 25, graduated from South River High School in 2008.** He soon found himself facing issues familiar to many new graduates: the high cost of college and a jump-start in job hunting once his parents told him he would have to pay rent. His first job experiences included retail jobs at the mall and the local deli where he discovered that he liked working in customer service roles. This increased his awareness about himself and potential job markets.

As part of his growing awareness, he states, “I also had previous knowledge in the maritime field from the Marine Repair class at CAT south (during high school), but I wasn't putting it to good use.” I set a goal after working a couple retail jobs that I would start using my background and get a job in the maritime field.”

A friend told him about a job opening at **Bay Shore Marine** in Annapolis for a retail parts manager. Mitchell quickly connected the dots when he realized he could combine his customer service skills with high school classes in the marine trades. “Having the basic background knowledge of marine engines and equipment helped me adapt to the many products I now manage” he says.

Today, Mitchell is managing the inventory in the showroom, the warehouse, the online sales and fulfilling inventory needs of the mechanics. “Billing out properly is really important to the job,” says Mitchell, where he says there must a million items counting all the little nuts and bolts required to meet the needs of so many different engines.

Mitchell is enthusiastic about his job in the marine trades and thankful for the opportunity provided by **Bay Shore Marine Owner, Jeff Leitch.** Leitch is equally enthusiastic about Mitchell, and praises him for bringing new skills to the job.

“Mitchell's computer skills have been an extremely beneficial addition to the company,” remarked Leitch. He's generating artwork with photos for advertising and producing a video for our showroom touting client projects. “He sold many new (old stock) items, that would have just been sitting around collecting dust, by entering photos of those engine parts from our inventory to our on-line store.”

Mitchell believes if he could have done anything differently on this journey, he “would have taken interest in marine engines at an earlier age. If I had been more aware of how many job opportunities there are involving boats and their engines I could possibly have had my own repair business started up right now.”

Mitchell is planning his future in the marine industry and knows he wants to include “small business ownership and pioneering new technologies.” He has a passion about how to keep ideas flowing to make things work better. He believes that “with the proper schooling you could make the next great change in the marine field.”

