

0:00:09.708,0:00:11.958

Welcome, everybody, to The Ogden  
Way podcast

0:00:11.958,0:00:15.375

where we talk about Ogden  
by telling the stories of Ogden's people.

0:00:15.833,0:00:18.625

And today we've got President Taggart,  
president

0:00:18.625,0:00:20.583

Jim Taggart from our tech college.

0:00:20.583,0:00:23.583

Jim, welcome. It's good to be here, mayor.

0:00:23.833,0:00:24.666

Man, this is a big.

0:00:24.666,0:00:25.541

This is a big guy.

0:00:25.541,0:00:28.458

This is a big guest. Big opportunity.

0:00:28.458,0:00:32.166

I say that not because I'm trying to,  
you know, pump your attitude or your ego,

0:00:32.708,0:00:37.375

but because of the significance of  
your work and the mission of the college.

0:00:38.458,0:00:39.750

Huge for Ogden.

0:00:39.750,0:00:41.833

And I think it's totally unsung.

0:00:41.833,0:00:44.916

And that's what makes President Taggart  
and your staff,

0:00:46.166,0:00:48.958

all of your, colleagues,

0:00:48.958,0:00:51.750

unsung heroes of Ogden.

0:00:51.750,0:00:52.541

Well, thank you, mayor.

0:00:52.541,0:00:56.458

You know, the mission of our college  
really is tied to the identity of Ogden

0:00:56.750,0:00:58.583

while we serve all of Weber County.

0:00:58.583,0:00:59.083

Really?

0:00:59.083,0:01:02.083

The heart of what we do is tied to Ogden  
City.

0:01:02.333,0:01:07.375

And, several years ago,  
we we sat back and said what it really is.

0:01:07.375,0:01:09.750

Our mission is a technical college.

0:01:09.750,0:01:13.250

And so we redrafted our mission statement.

0:01:14.083,0:01:16.916

And most educational institutions,  
colleges and universities

0:01:16.916,0:01:19.916

mission statements  
are two paragraphs of edu-speak.

0:01:20.083,0:01:22.375

No one knows what it is. Edu-speak. Okay.

0:01:22.375,0:01:25.291

Our mission is a single sentence  
that tells

0:01:25.291,0:01:28.291

why we do what we do, what we do,  
and how we do it.

0:01:28.416,0:01:31.416

And that sentence is we create,

0:01:31.708,0:01:34.250

we build prosperity in our community.

0:01:34.250,0:01:35.958

That's why we do what we do.

0:01:35.958,0:01:37.958

Prosperity in our community.

0:01:37.958,0:01:41.125

So what we do is by creating  
a technically skilled workforce

0:01:41.125,0:01:44.125

and how we do it,  
and we do it one student at a time.

0:01:44.208,0:01:47.750

We recognize that what we do goes  
beyond just technical education.

0:01:48.666,0:01:51.666

Our students are trained  
specifically for jobs

0:01:51.916,0:01:54.708

that are needed in our community.

0:01:54.708,0:01:58.208

If if there's a lot of student interest

but there are no jobs,

0:01:58.208,0:02:00.208

we don't offer that program.

0:02:00.208,0:02:02.500

We want to make sure that everyone  
that comes to Ogden Weber

0:02:02.500,0:02:05.666

Tech has the ability  
to complete a certificate,

0:02:05.666,0:02:09.416

go immediately  
to work where there are multiple openings.

0:02:09.500,0:02:12.416

That's  
why we have a 98% job placement rate.

0:02:13.375,0:02:16.916

And they not only are getting a job,  
but they have a career.

0:02:17.041,0:02:19.708

They have a wonderful stable career pathway.

0:02:19.708,0:02:23.125

And then if they want to continue their education, they have a pathway

0:02:23.125,0:02:27.083

to to Weber State or one of our other colleges or universities

0:02:27.291,0:02:30.791

in the state of Utah, preferably Weber State, but you know, but yes.

0:02:30.791,0:02:35.333

And and we do we have that is our one of our strongest partnerships, obviously.

0:02:35.333,0:02:38.791

And President Mortenson, I work really closely to ensure that

0:02:39.458,0:02:42.250

we know that, you know, the whole perception of technical

0:02:42.250,0:02:45.250

college has changed technical education.

0:02:45.541,0:02:48.541

When I started 30 years ago,

0:02:49.416,0:02:51.166

it was technical education

0:02:51.166,0:02:54.166

for the kids

that were not going to go get a degree.

0:02:54.208,0:02:58.000

It was you go to a tech school or

you go to a college and university, right?

0:02:59.041,0:03:00.125

It was less than.

0:03:00.125,0:03:01.500

And that's not how it is.

0:03:01.500,0:03:02.500

Not at all. Right.

0:03:02.500,0:03:04.166

About 40% of our adult

0:03:04.166,0:03:07.583

students have already gone to a university  
or another college,

0:03:08.208,0:03:11.625

and some have finished degrees  
and they're underemployed.

0:03:11.625,0:03:14.416

And others just said, this isn't for me.

0:03:14.416,0:03:16.083

And so they're coming to us.

0:03:16.083,0:03:21.250

They're completing their,  
their certificate, getting a better wage

0:03:21.833,0:03:24.458

and with great partnerships  
that we have with Weber State.

0:03:24.458,0:03:27.541

Jumpstart Weber is one and tech transfer.

0:03:27.958,0:03:30.750

We have them going back to Weber State  
and completing degrees

0:03:30.750,0:03:34.083

accelerated  
while making a really good wage.

0:03:34.083,0:03:37.458

And and that's really again,  
building that prosperity.

0:03:37.458,0:03:38.958

That's not just my mission.

0:03:38.958,0:03:42.291

That's what we do  
collaboratively with our school districts,

0:03:42.291,0:03:44.958

with our charter schools  
and with the university.

0:03:44.958,0:03:49.000

That's how we build this, this awesome  
community here in Ogden.

0:03:49.041,0:03:50.208

You're building prosperity

0:03:50.208,0:03:53.500

by really building people,  
and you're building people by giving them

0:03:54.000,0:03:57.666

access to workforce development,  
skilled trade, right.

0:03:57.666,0:03:58.916

And certification.

0:03:58.916,0:04:02.666

And you do it at a scale that's one  
student at a time, but you do it

0:04:03.708,0:04:04.458

for so many

0:04:04.458,0:04:07.458

students that it's a scale,  
that it's a community wide impact.

0:04:07.458,0:04:08.833

Yeah, right.

0:04:08.833,0:04:11.333

That's the that's the point  
and that's the purpose and the mission.

0:04:11.333,0:04:14.125

And I'll just tell you, Jim,  
I am a huge believer.

0:04:14.125,0:04:15.791

I've become.

0:04:15.791,0:04:18.458

But you might want to even say  
like a convert, right?

0:04:18.458,0:04:19.125

Because like you're saying

0:04:19.125,0:04:22.458

there's a change in mindset around

how technical colleges are viewed.

0:04:23.000,0:04:25.833

Like I can I can admit,

0:04:25.833,0:04:27.875

that I've changed  
my view of technical college

0:04:27.875,0:04:32.208

because I've seen the  
I've had a view of what it does.

0:04:32.666,0:04:33.500

Right.

0:04:33.500,0:04:33.833

Well, yeah.

0:04:33.833,0:04:37.458

And we're seeing a different type  
of student coming to us.

0:04:39.416,0:04:42.416

At the tech college, high school students  
attend tuition free.

0:04:43.041,0:04:46.750

And we're seeing all types of high school  
students coming to us.

0:04:46.750,0:04:49.041

Students that are valedictorians.

0:04:49.041,0:04:50.041

They're on the football team.

0:04:50.041,0:04:52.250

They're doing athletics or junior ROTC.

0:04:52.250,0:04:55.625

And they have a four year degree  
or a graduate degree in mind.

0:04:56.083,0:04:59.333

And they say, well, what sets me  
apart from everyone else is I can complete

0:04:59.333,0:05:03.791

my first tech college credentials  
before I graduate in high school.

0:05:03.791,0:05:04.750

In high school.

0:05:04.750,0:05:07.625

Co-located at the tech college.

Yeah, right.

0:05:07.625,0:05:11.291

We're totally high in a beautiful  
brand new facility on the campus.

0:05:12.083,0:05:15.333

And, and, and while we have, O-Tech  
high on our campus,

0:05:15.625,0:05:19.208

we take high school students  
from all of the high schools and,

0:05:19.208,0:05:22.208

and, and charter schools in our community.

0:05:22.458,0:05:26.916

O-Tech high is very, very unique  
because how we offer technical education,

0:05:27.458,0:05:31.250

it's not based on seat  
time, it's based on competency.

0:05:31.250,0:05:34.375

So the student understands  
you can demonstrate that you don't leave

0:05:34.375,0:05:36.083

through the rest of the move  
to get to where you need.

0:05:36.083,0:05:38.250

You go through where you need to go.

0:05:38.250,0:05:41.875

If you don't understand it, it's like,  
oh, you got to start over.

0:05:41.875,0:05:42.541

It's okay.

0:05:42.541,0:05:43.458

We're going to work with you

0:05:43.458,0:05:46.458

until you can show that competency,  
however long that takes you.

0:05:46.458,0:05:48.083

How long that takes you.

0:05:48.083,0:05:50.375

We do have some parameters in there,  
but we know, hey,

0:05:50.375,0:05:53.333

we've got to get you to this level  
so that you'll be successful

0:05:53.333,0:05:56.333

when you go to work  
or when you continue your education.

0:05:56.666,0:06:01.125

O-Tech High is unique because it's  
the first high school in the state of Utah

0:06:01.500,0:06:05.333

that their core high school  
graduation requirements are project based.

0:06:05.750,0:06:09.833

So their history, their math,  
their English, it's competency based.

0:06:10.333,0:06:13.250

So the kids have the same  
learning environment for their core high

0:06:13.250,0:06:17.208

school requirements while they're taking  
their technical courses,

0:06:18.166,0:06:21.291

on the  
campus in as early college students.

0:06:21.541,0:06:25.166

So it's the only technical high school  
you'll find anywhere in the United States

0:06:25.458,0:06:27.458

that has no technical equipment.

0:06:27.458,0:06:30.208

They have access to tens of millions

0:06:30.208,0:06:33.375

of dollars

of technical equipment on the campus.

0:06:33.500,0:06:35.666

You just walk across the street, correct

0:06:35.666,0:06:38.833

a rock across the parking lot,

and they have access to all of that.

0:06:38.916,0:06:39.208

Okay.

0:06:39.208,0:06:42.916

And and that goes back to the wisdom of,

of Ogden

0:06:42.916,0:06:46.083

School District coming up

with a really good idea and said, hey,

0:06:46.083,0:06:50.541

we love sending our students to O-Tech,

How can we send more?

0:06:51.416,0:06:54.875

Have you ever thought of what  
if we put a high school on your campus?

0:06:55.750,0:06:56.750

That was their idea.

0:06:56.750,0:06:58.625

All I had to do was say yes.

0:06:58.625,0:07:00.250

Yes, do that. Yes.

0:07:00.250,0:07:01.791

It was amazing.

0:07:01.791,0:07:03.083

And Ogden leads the way.

0:07:03.083,0:07:07.458

I get calls from from Southern California  
and Florida have both given calls to say,

0:07:07.708,0:07:10.458

can we come out and see what you're doing  
here? Technical high school.

0:07:10.458,0:07:10.708

Okay.

0:07:10.708,0:07:13.750

It's not being done for anybody listening  
that's wondering about O-Tech high.

0:07:14.000,0:07:16.791

Go to our episode with Superintendent  
Luke Rasmussen,

0:07:16.791,0:07:19.208

superintendent of Ogden School District,  
who talks all about it

0:07:19.208,0:07:21.500

because it's not just about  
getting your high school diploma.

0:07:21.500,0:07:26.458

It's about how do we help you find  
what you are wired to do, right?

0:07:27.125,0:07:30.416

Meaning it's not just about your passion

or your interest.

0:07:30.458,0:07:34.041

What are you aligned to with  
how you're wired to be good at it and

0:07:34.333,0:07:39.125

and then how do you align with what  
you are passionate about, interested in.

0:07:39.291,0:07:40.458

That starts in middle school.

0:07:40.458,0:07:42.125

Oh yeah. Right.

0:07:42.125,0:07:46.125

And then having that pathway  
through middle school, in the high school,

0:07:46.708,0:07:47.583

through high school,

0:07:47.583,0:07:50.583

including opportunities for the trades  
and for the certifications

0:07:50.750,0:07:54.500

through the Tech High

where not only do you get through

0:07:54.500,0:07:58.625

high school, you graduate with college  
credits for \$5 a credit.

0:07:59.833,0:08:01.291

Well, bucks.

0:08:01.291,0:08:04.166

Yeah, it's five bucks for their concurrent  
enrollment.

0:08:04.166,0:08:06.916

It's hero at at Ogden Weber Tech.

0:08:06.916,0:08:08.333

They don't pay anything.

0:08:08.333,0:08:10.125

It's free. Wow. I mean, those are the.

0:08:10.125,0:08:11.500

Those are the deals of the century.

0:08:11.500,0:08:16.208

And and so,

with with tech transfer at Weber State,

0:08:16.208,0:08:19.333

if they finish one of our longer programs,

we now have high school students

0:08:19.541,0:08:23.083

completing multiple programs

before they graduate from high school.

0:08:23.291,0:08:24.583

We just held our commencement.

0:08:24.583,0:08:27.125

I had two different parents,

set of parents come up to me

0:08:27.125,0:08:30.125

and they say, my kid

just graduated from high school.

0:08:30.125,0:08:32.833

They make more money than I do, right?

0:08:32.833,0:08:35.791

And they go, thank you.

0:08:35.791,0:08:39.000

That's better than a parent saying,  
can you help my kid

0:08:39.958,0:08:43.250

just still at home  
and not going anywhere, right?

0:08:43.250,0:08:45.875

And I go, well,  
I can help them, too. Yeah.

0:08:45.875,0:08:49.708

You know, it's an amazing community  
and a big part of it really is,

0:08:50.458,0:08:53.458

the business leaders in our community.

0:08:53.541,0:08:56.458

Ogden has, a really diverse

0:08:57.750,0:08:58.375

economy.

0:08:58.375,0:09:01.666

We do have a lot of government workers  
with IRS and Hill Air Force Base,

0:09:02.333,0:09:06.083

but we have a much larger ecosystem  
with with manufacturing,

0:09:06.083,0:09:10.000

aerospace defense, our health science i.t.

0:09:10.291,0:09:13.291

Yeah, I mean, it is  
this is a small business

0:09:13.583,0:09:16.458

to support all that,  
all that the, the the technical know

0:09:16.458,0:09:19.458

how to run our ski resorts is amazing.

0:09:19.541,0:09:19.916

Oh yeah.

0:09:19.916,0:09:24.375

Those those high speed lifts, they are all  
run by Programable logic controllers.

0:09:24.375,0:09:27.375

And those are automation  
national operations.

0:09:27.375,0:09:29.541

Oh yeah, they are amazing.

0:09:29.541,0:09:33.291

But these employers support investment  
in technical education.

0:09:34.083,0:09:37.541

So if you get hired with them many times  
they're going to pay

0:09:37.541,0:09:41.541

for the rest of your training,  
either the tech college or the university.

0:09:42.083,0:09:44.958

Now we protect  
we use scholarships and Pell grants.

0:09:44.958,0:09:46.541

We don't do student loans

0:09:46.541,0:09:50.666

because we're committed that every student  
graduate tuition are debt free.

0:09:50.916,0:09:54.083

You know, debt free or no,  
no student loans.

0:09:54.625,0:09:57.791

And that allows them,  
as they're making really good wages,

0:09:58.083,0:10:01.416

to spend more money in our community,  
which builds prosperity for everyone.

0:10:01.416,0:10:05.166

That's good for businesses  
and that's good for families.

0:10:05.333,0:10:08.541

That's that's the beauty  
of what we do in our community.

0:10:10.125,0:10:12.750

And that's  
why I love working with Weber State.

0:10:12.750,0:10:14.625

Weber State.

0:10:14.625,0:10:17.791

There was a time in our history that  
we were scrambling for the same student.

0:10:18.083,0:10:18.708

Yeah.

0:10:18.708,0:10:22.416

And it was  
it was just a mad dash to say “no,

0:10:22.458,0:10:25.583

every student comes to us” and,

0:10:27.791,0:10:30.125

we didn't have the collaboration  
that we have now.

0:10:30.125,0:10:32.666

And now we have this great collaboration  
where it is,

0:10:32.666,0:10:36.166

hey, if you want to start at Ogden  
Weber Tech, go to Ogden Weber Tech.

0:10:36.333,0:10:40.583

How can we help you with Jumpstart  
Weber students that are adults?

0:10:40.625,0:10:43.791

They missed out on concurrent enrollment  
through Weber State in high school,

0:10:45.333,0:10:49.166

they can take three gen ed classes for \$95  
a credit hour.

0:10:50.125,0:10:54.625

Now that's pretty bold

for President Mortenson to offer

0:10:54.958,0:10:58.625

three gen ed courses for O-Tech students.

0:10:59.208,0:11:01.375

Cheaper than if a student enrolls  
a Weber State.

0:11:01.375,0:11:03.166

Oh, yeah, that's a bold move.

0:11:03.166,0:11:06.916

Most presidents  
would not have the ability to do that,

0:11:07.041,0:11:11.916

but since we want them  
to go to Weber State and our investment

0:11:11.916,0:11:15.083

is they graduated from O-Tech,  
we're going to give them.

0:11:15.125,0:11:17.875

Let them transfer up to 21 credits. Right.

0:11:17.875,0:11:18.875

We're going to let them take

0:11:18.875,0:11:22.583

an additional nine at the same tuition  
rate that they pay as an adult.

0:11:22.583,0:11:26.666

At Ogden Weber Tech and we're going  
to have half their associate degree done.

0:11:27.250,0:11:28.625

Can I point something out? Sure.

0:11:29.583,0:11:32.333

If anybody is watching this episode  
with Jim Taggart

0:11:32.333,0:11:34.875

and you watch the episode with President

0:11:34.875,0:11:36.916

Brad Mortenson,  
and you watched the episode

0:11:36.916,0:11:39.625

with Superintendent Luke Rasmussen,  
you're going to hear the same things.

0:11:39.625,0:11:41.125

You're going to hear

0:11:41.125,0:11:44.125

each of these leaders  
talking about the other leaders programs.

0:11:44.916,0:11:48.000

And what that is,  
is symptomatic of the alignment

0:11:48.125,0:11:51.458

and the collaboration  
and the communication that happens

0:11:51.458,0:11:54.458

between these three anchor education  
institutions and leaders.

0:11:55.166,0:11:58.166

That's really important  
because like you said,

0:11:58.375,0:12:01.375

it used to be where we were competing  
for the same student.

0:12:01.375,0:12:02.541

This isn't about competition.

0:12:02.541,0:12:03.875

This is about alignment,

0:12:03.875,0:12:06.875

about collaboration  
and being complementary with one another.

0:12:07.000,0:12:10.708

And the city has a role to play to,  
to make sure that the work

0:12:10.708,0:12:15.083

we're doing to recruit companies  
and to be an attractive place

0:12:15.083,0:12:19.791

to come and live and to work, to play,  
etc., is aligned with the opportunities

0:12:19.791,0:12:23.125

and our education institution leaders

0:12:23.625,0:12:26.250

are delivering on the pathways

that we need for

0:12:26.250,0:12:29.458

our people here to develop the workforce

for these companies that we're recruiting.

0:12:29.458,0:12:31.458

Right. It's all about alignment.

0:12:31.458,0:12:33.041

And that's why

we talk about the Ogden Way,

0:12:33.041,0:12:35.666

having these seven pillars

for human success.

0:12:35.666,0:12:38.458

Every one of us play roles

within those pillars.

0:12:38.458,0:12:41.666

Some of us play roles in multiple  
pillars, right?

0:12:42.208,0:12:44.125

But none of us do them all.

0:12:44.125,0:12:49.375

And so how are we going to provide  
for all of the pathways and the resources,

0:12:49.375,0:12:52.791

services and opportunities  
that everybody needs in this city

0:12:53.416,0:12:56.000

if we don't do it together? Right, right.

0:12:56.000,0:12:57.250

And that's the framework

0:12:57.250,0:13:00.666

for providing alignment across partners  
and across the entire city.

0:13:01.041,0:13:04.500

And you guys, as education institutions,  
I don't have to do any aligning.

0:13:04.500,0:13:06.208

You've already done it with each other.

0:13:06.208,0:13:09.333

I have to align ourselves with  
with the pathways that you already have.

0:13:09.333,0:13:12.708

And I am blessed to have already arrived  
with that lineman in this way

0:13:13.000,0:13:15.708

for workforce development. Right? Right.

0:13:15.708,0:13:17.458

Do you know how significant that is?

0:13:17.458,0:13:20.458

Well, I know that it's great.

0:13:20.541,0:13:22.541

Because again,

when I talk to my counterparts

0:13:22.541,0:13:26.333

in the rest of the state

or in other areas, you and I know that

0:13:26.333,0:13:29.583

sometimes a site selector doesn't

give us notice.

0:13:29.583,0:13:31.041

They just call, right?

0:13:31.041,0:13:33.583

And we'll get a call from the city

or the county.

0:13:33.583,0:13:38.458

It's like, hey, a site selectors

interested in Ogden, can you be here at X,

0:13:38.458,0:13:39.458

y, Z?

0:13:39.458,0:13:42.625

We all know what we're going to say

and we know that it's true.

0:13:42.958,0:13:46.000

And we say, and you can talk  
to other companies who have relocated here

0:13:46.333,0:13:49.666

and ask them if we didn't  
hold up what we said we were going to do.

0:13:49.750,0:13:50.500

Right.

0:13:50.500,0:13:53.583

And again,  
that's the Ogden way in, in, in.

0:13:53.708,0:13:55.041

And it's it's wonderful.

0:13:56.500,0:13:58.875

That's why you see,

0:13:58.875,0:14:01.833

the success of the Ogden School District  
that,

0:14:01.833,0:14:03.916

you know, ten years ago,

they were in the bottom

0:14:03.916,0:14:07.500

three of all school districts in the state

for all time high school completion.

0:14:07.541,0:14:09.166

Now they're above the state average.

0:14:09.166,0:14:10.416

Oh, yeah, they're crushing it.

0:14:10.416,0:14:13.958

Weber State other universities

have struggled with growth.

0:14:13.958,0:14:17.500

Weber State is had wonderful

successful growth.

0:14:18.083,0:14:20.541

Ogden Weber Tech

0:14:20.541,0:14:21.958

is going to serve this year.

0:14:21.958,0:14:25.083

Just under 7000 students

we're bigger than Snow College.

0:14:25.083,0:14:26.500

It's amazing.

0:14:26.500,0:14:28.791

If you add 7000 students,

0:14:28.791,0:14:31.416

7000 members of the workforce,

0:14:31.416,0:14:34.208

yes, 7000 employees

0:14:34.208,0:14:37.625

leveling up and their certification

and their tradecraft leveling up

0:14:37.625,0:14:39.500

in the amount of money they're making,

0:14:39.500,0:14:43.458

stepping up economically

so that they can have upward mobility

0:14:43.458,0:14:47.458

and access to better opportunity, better  
standards of life, better quality of life.

0:14:47.458,0:14:48.541

Right? Yes.

0:14:48.541,0:14:49.916

Let's not lose

0:14:49.916,0:14:53.458

sight of what that means to grad  
to have 7000 students at any one year.

0:14:53.666,0:14:56.750

Well, and I love that  
we live in a community that values that.

0:14:56.750,0:15:01.500

That doesn't say technical education  
is less than or well, "you didn't

0:15:01.791,0:15:05.125

you weren't successful at Weber state  
or you're struggling somewhere.

0:15:05.125,0:15:07.666

So I don't know what to tell you."

What to do.

0:15:07.666,0:15:09.875

That doesn't happen in Ogden.

0:15:09.875,0:15:11.708

I the Ogden way is no.

0:15:11.708,0:15:13.916

There's a way for everybody.

0:15:13.916,0:15:17.375

If you look at our  
our county is what, 278,000?

0:15:17.916,0:15:20.750

We serve more students at Ogden Weber Tech

0:15:20.750,0:15:24.333

than tech colleges that have a million

people in the region. I,

0:15:25.916,0:15:27.041

I that's pretty awesome.

0:15:27.041,0:15:31.916

Okay, but what that means is  
we are developing our middle class. Yes.

0:15:32.208,0:15:35.208

And we are putting more families  
in positions of prosperity

0:15:35.958,0:15:37.041

per capita than anywhere else.

0:15:37.041,0:15:38.208

Is what you're saying, right?

0:15:38.208,0:15:41.208

Like, let's unpack what that means, right.

0:15:41.375,0:15:45.125

Because you're you're creating the ability  
for our people

0:15:45.125,0:15:48.791

to land these jobs that are high paying  
right out of high school.

0:15:49.250,0:15:50.125

Right.

0:15:50.125,0:15:53.833

One of the things that we're working on  
on our side that, Luke Rasmussen

0:15:53.916,0:15:57.416

was super, super important in is industry

0:15:57.416,0:16:00.416

came to us and said, Mayor,

0:16:00.958,0:16:04.750

we want to get more aligned earlier  
with with the workforce.

0:16:04.750,0:16:07.250

And they said, we hire people.

0:16:07.250,0:16:09.500

And then,

0:16:09.500,0:16:13.250

educate them, but they don't understand  
what they're good at yet.

0:16:13.666,0:16:17.125

And so there's a paradigm  
shift happening where instead of just,

0:16:18.250,0:16:18.708

working on

0:16:18.708,0:16:21.708

aligning someone's passion  
and pursuits and interests,

0:16:22.083,0:16:24.416

what about your competency first,

0:16:24.416,0:16:27.583

and then how does your competence, things  
that you are really meant to be great at?

0:16:27.583,0:16:30.291

Some people are better  
at math than others, right?

0:16:30.291,0:16:34.125

And if you are gearing yourself toward  
a career where you have to be great

0:16:34.125,0:16:37.125

at math and you're not competent  
or wired to do that,

0:16:37.333,0:16:40.916

what within that industry or a different  
pathway can you be aligned in?

0:16:41.000,0:16:41.583

Right.

0:16:41.583,0:16:42.208

And that's what that's

0:16:42.208,0:16:45.208

what the school district  
working on early seventh grade even.

0:16:45.291,0:16:48.291

Well, and that's that's  
one of the things we do at O-Tech High

0:16:48.416,0:16:51.416

is we teach math in every  
one of our programs.

0:16:52.000,0:16:53.666

So a machinist

0:16:53.666,0:16:56.541

is learning university level trigonometry.

0:16:56.541,0:16:57.875

We never drop the T word on them,

0:16:58.958,0:17:01.416

we call it machinist math.

0:17:01.416,0:17:04.583

When they finish it,  
they get to apply that back to the project

0:17:04.583,0:17:05.583

based learning and going.

0:17:05.583,0:17:08.541

You have demonstrated competency

in advanced trigonometry.

0:17:08.541,0:17:10.125

We're going to give you the math credit  
for that.

0:17:10.125,0:17:11.541

There you go.

0:17:11.541,0:17:15.500

Many people, myself  
included, math was very abstract to me.

0:17:15.500,0:17:16.916

Made no sense.

0:17:16.916,0:17:19.708

Applied math

0:17:19.708,0:17:21.375

I have a health care background.

0:17:21.375,0:17:24.083

So dosage calculations, which is algebra.

0:17:24.083,0:17:25.750

Yeah, made sense to me.

0:17:25.750,0:17:27.708

I go, oh that's why you solve for Y.

0:17:27.708,0:17:30.125

And that's one of the beauties  
of technical education.

0:17:30.125,0:17:33.041

We, we encounter people who think, oh,  
I can't do math.

0:17:33.041,0:17:35.250

And then they find out I can do math.

0:17:35.250,0:17:37.125

Yeah, I can do this. Right.

0:17:37.125,0:17:40.125

And they, they, they gain that competency.

0:17:41.208,0:17:44.166

Again, that wonderful support  
that we get from employers

0:17:44.166,0:17:48.083

in our community

where we have higher wages, the average

0:17:48.083,0:17:52.666

wage for our non apprentices

at Ogden Weber Tech is \$51,000 a year.

0:17:53.000,0:17:55.708

Our shortest program

you can complete in a month.

0:17:55.708,0:17:57.625

Our longest program takes about a year.

0:17:57.625,0:18:00.208

You know, most of our adult students

go part time.

0:18:00.208,0:18:03.208

They're already working. And we love that.

0:18:03.708,0:18:06.208

We don't have to worry about employers

going, hey,

0:18:06.208,0:18:08.125

I'm hiring  
someone that's never held the job.

0:18:08.125,0:18:10.375

They don't even know  
they need to show up on time

0:18:10.375,0:18:13.041

because we have people  
that have great work experience.

0:18:13.041,0:18:15.250

They're completing these programs.

0:18:15.250,0:18:17.541

That's the average starting wage.

0:18:17.541,0:18:20.375

If you're an apprentice,  
you're going to start your as a first year

0:18:20.375,0:18:25.458

apprentice  
in plumbing or electrical at 40 to 45,000.

0:18:25.791,0:18:26.708

When you graduate

0:18:27.791,0:18:28.125

after

0:18:28.125,0:18:31.125

four years, you're making 60 to 80,000.

0:18:31.166,0:18:33.458

Within two years, you're a six figure.

0:18:33.458,0:18:34.750

That's straight time.

0:18:34.750,0:18:35.666

That's not overtime.

0:18:35.666,0:18:37.708

They're making six figures.

0:18:37.708,0:18:39.375

We're the largest provider  
of apprenticeship

0:18:39.375,0:18:41.208

training in the state of Utah.

0:18:41.208,0:18:42.583

Ogden Weber Tech.

0:18:42.583,0:18:47.625

Last year our our students,  
their first year salary payroll

0:18:48.416,0:18:51.416

was \$68 million.

0:18:51.625,0:18:54.208

This year it's \$84 million.

0:18:54.208,0:18:57.208

And we have one month  
left in the fiscal year. Wow.

0:18:57.208,0:19:01.916

That's \$84 million  
for one year of graduates.

0:19:02.083,0:19:04.458

And they're going to continue  
to make more and more money.

0:19:04.458,0:19:07.250

That's money  
coming back into our community.

0:19:07.250,0:19:10.250

That's wealth in our people's  
pockets. Yeah.

0:19:10.708,0:19:14.125

And that's good for our restaurants.

0:19:14.125,0:19:16.041

That's good for people buying homes.

0:19:16.041,0:19:19.041

That's good for people that,  
hey, I'm going to buy a car.

0:19:20.083,0:19:22.833

That's great because these individuals  
have health insurance.

0:19:22.833,0:19:24.500

Now, many of our students,

0:19:25.541,0:19:26.250

we have one of the

0:19:26.250,0:19:30.041

largest percentages

of economically disadvantaged students.

0:19:30.416,0:19:33.166

We're taking them from using state

resources.

0:19:33.166,0:19:35.416

They're taxpayers now, right?

0:19:35.416,0:19:40.416

Yeah, they're they're they're they're they're not

a recipient of state resources.

0:19:40.416,0:19:42.625

They're helping others now.

0:19:42.625,0:19:45.541

And I mean, isn't that a beautiful thing

to watch that in our community.

0:19:45.541,0:19:48.833

And we can do a quick and they're going,  
oh, you know what?

0:19:48.833,0:19:49.958

I never thought to that

0:19:49.958,0:19:53.083

I wanted a degree,  
but I've had success at Ogden Weber Tech.

0:19:53.708,0:19:57.208

I'm going to go to Weber State  
now because I have this pathway.

0:19:57.208,0:19:59.666

I already have my associate degree  
halfway done.

0:19:59.666,0:20:01.333

Why wouldn't I want to finish?

0:20:01.333,0:20:05.666

And then I have access to any bachelor's  
degree that I want to, or they can see

0:20:06.291,0:20:07.083

I make it.

0:20:07.083,0:20:09.791

I have a great career. I'm  
going to continue where I'm at.

0:20:11.541,0:20:12.708

Brad,

0:20:12.708,0:20:15.666

and Superintendent Rasmussen and myself,

0:20:15.666,0:20:18.666

we talk about what do we have to do  
to build opportunity.

0:20:18.708,0:20:19.166

There you go.

0:20:19.166,0:20:21.708

Ultimately, individuals  
are going to make their choice,

0:20:21.708,0:20:24.458

but we don't ever want to have the road  
block of

0:20:24.458,0:20:26.750

we didn't give you the opportunity, okay.

0:20:26.750,0:20:28.583

You just said,

how do we build opportunity?

0:20:28.583,0:20:31.833

That is the vision for the city

in the Ogden Way.

0:20:31.875,0:20:34.875

We are city of service,

meaning we are a city.

0:20:35.000,0:20:38.000

As a city corporation of 700 employees

0:20:38.000,0:20:41.000

that has a municipal governance role.

0:20:41.083,0:20:45.625

And our responsibility is to serve others,

to serve one another in our mission

0:20:46.000,0:20:47.458

to serve the people of the city

0:20:47.458,0:20:50.625

so that they can have access  
and in an environment of opportunity.

0:20:51.208,0:20:53.208

That's the whole point, right?

0:20:53.208,0:20:55.791

And so the priority isn't just

0:20:55.791,0:20:58.333

what part of the city do I invest in?

0:20:58.333,0:21:00.958

It's it's investing in people  
by giving them opportunity.

0:21:00.958,0:21:03.750

And it's also investing in people  
by aligning ourselves

0:21:03.750,0:21:06.791

in our shared mission

toward providing access to opportunities.

0:21:06.791,0:21:07.625

Right. Yeah.

0:21:07.625,0:21:11.333

And so when people take advantage  
of these opportunities, the future here,

0:21:11.875,0:21:14.541

you can become your best here in Ogden.

0:21:14.541,0:21:17.666

If you already live here, you can become  
your best right here, right here.

0:21:17.666,0:21:19.041

It's all here.

0:21:19.041,0:21:21.166

And then, like I used to say, it's  
all within reach, right?

0:21:21.166,0:21:22.416

It's true.

0:21:22.416,0:21:25.416

You can really do anything  
that you want to do here in Ogden.

0:21:25.875,0:21:29.500

We just need them to have that mindset  
of stepping

0:21:29.500,0:21:33.958

into those opportunities, taking a chance  
and and betting on themselves.

0:21:33.958,0:21:34.916

Right.

0:21:34.916,0:21:37.875

Because this city in this community  
will bet on them.

0:21:37.875,0:21:39.875

Yeah, it's all here, right?

0:21:39.875,0:21:41.208

We'll invest in our people.

0:21:41.208,0:21:46.791

And I know here that I mean, it's  
a scary thing for an adult who may have

0:21:47.291,0:21:51.958

graduated from high school 20 years ago,  
and they need a career change.

0:21:51.958,0:21:54.875

It is a scary thing  
to go back to school it up.

0:21:54.875,0:21:58.916

Yeah, but and it's a brave, bold  
move for them to go back to school.

0:21:59.541,0:22:02.666

And we see so many of them  
do an amazing job of it.

0:22:02.833,0:22:05.666

And one of the things that I love,

0:22:07.000,0:22:10.208

when,  
when our students apply for graduation,

0:22:10.208,0:22:13.708

we ask them, is there anything  
you'd like to share about your experience?

0:22:13.708,0:22:16.166

And I read all of those comments.

0:22:16.166,0:22:19.708

It was 32 pages at our  
at our last commencement,

0:22:19.708,0:22:22.291

and I read every one of them  
multiple times.

0:22:22.291,0:22:27.416

But a common theme that I hear,  
the most common used word is amazing.

0:22:27.416,0:22:30.416

Amazing people, amazing campus, amazing,

0:22:30.916,0:22:31.583

equipment.

0:22:31.583,0:22:33.708

Amazing. Whatever.

0:22:33.708,0:22:36.375

But the most common  
theme is I'm surrounded

0:22:36.375,0:22:39.375

by people  
who would not let me give up on myself.

0:22:40.583,0:22:41.208

That's amazing.

0:22:41.208,0:22:46.250

Any time I want to quit, there's the  
people stepped in and said, no, I got you.

0:22:46.791,0:22:47.916

You're not going to quit.

0:22:47.916,0:22:49.375

This is hard.

0:22:49.375,0:22:51.583

That's okay. It was hard for me, too.

0:22:51.583,0:22:53.875

I got you, you can do this. And.

0:22:53.875,0:22:57.333

And that's why I love the people that  
I get to work with at Ogden Weber Tech.

0:22:57.833,0:23:02.333

And and with other community partners  
because they're really invested in.

0:23:02.875,0:23:05.375

Hey, this is how we take care  
of our community.

0:23:05.375,0:23:07.125

I'm here to help you.

0:23:07.125,0:23:09.291

But you know what? You're in a health care  
program.

0:23:09.291,0:23:11.583

Someday, you're probably going  
to have to take care of me.

0:23:11.583,0:23:15.416

Or you're an industrial automation  
and you might work for Snow Basin.

0:23:15.416,0:23:19.041

I sure would like to be on that high speed  
lift and not have it fail.

0:23:20.541,0:23:20.666

Preferably.

0:23:20.666,0:23:26.166

Or frontrunner or tracks or or,  
so many of our folks work in aerospace.

0:23:26.166,0:23:32.125

I want to know the confidence that when  
I get on a plane, it's going to be okay.

0:23:32.583,0:23:36.125

I mean, every time I walk on a plane,  
I check to see the jetway.

0:23:36.125,0:23:41.333

It's Oshkosh now am I on an on a jetway  
that was built in Ogden and I look for.

0:23:41.333,0:23:42.250

Well, we're stuck for that.

0:23:42.250,0:23:44.041

I'm sure a bunch of them  
are at the Ogden airport.

0:23:44.041,0:23:45.458

They're usually got a contract store

0:23:45.458,0:23:47.500

a lot of those  
and put them all around the country.

0:23:47.500,0:23:51.958

So anybody listening, anytime you go  
anywhere, if you're going on

0:23:51.958,0:23:55.791

and off a jetway, check to see  
if it's got that little Ogden, Utah label,

0:23:55.833,0:23:56.666

a piece of Ogden's with you

0:23:57.708,0:23:59.000

all across the world.

0:23:59.000,0:24:03.041

So you hit on something about

that is such a central theme

0:24:03.041,0:24:05.916

and the core mission of the Ogden Way,

which

0:24:05.916,0:24:09.208

first it's about do you have

the confidence is what Brad called it,

0:24:09.500,0:24:12.500

I call it do you have the grit and the

and the grind, the, the,

0:24:12.833,0:24:17.458

the mentality to bet on yourself

and to to do the work, to level up.

0:24:17.458,0:24:19.583

Right.

You have to have that in yourself, right?

0:24:19.583,0:24:22.583

No one can do the work  
to earn the success for you.

0:24:22.750,0:24:24.625

But we can put the opportunity before you.

0:24:24.625,0:24:26.916

But the other thing  
that really makes Ogden special,

0:24:26.916,0:24:28.208

and what's important about the Ogden Way,

0:24:28.208,0:24:31.208

is that we don't just do that for  
and with ourselves

0:24:31.750,0:24:36.500

when when we do that and we rise and we  
we help those around us lift as well.

0:24:36.708,0:24:37.625

Right?

0:24:37.625,0:24:41.000

But as we reach out to our friends  
and our neighbors to help them rise

0:24:41.000,0:24:42.333

and level up,

0:24:42.333,0:24:45.083

they have to have that same spirit  
of accountability and self investment

0:24:45.083,0:24:46.833

and grit and grind. Right?

0:24:46.833,0:24:48.958

Because the mindset of growth,

0:24:48.958,0:24:52.583

it it's almost like one begets  
the other, begets the other.

0:24:52.583,0:24:54.125

It just catalyzes.

0:24:54.125,0:24:57.708

And that's the that's the environment

you create and work in

0:24:58.166,0:25:00.125

that has to feel fulfilling Jim.

0:25:00.125,0:25:01.875

Every day to work in that.

0:25:01.875,0:25:02.708

It is. Right.

0:25:02.708,0:25:05.958

And I really do feel

I have the best job I know.

0:25:05.958,0:25:07.541

Mine's better, but yeah.

0:25:07.541,0:25:10.916

I, I,

I feel I have the best job in the world.

0:25:11.250,0:25:14.666

Unlike Brad, I don't have to worry  
about athletics and and some other things.

0:25:14.916,0:25:15.750

That's a big mission.

0:25:15.750,0:25:18.875

I just, I just get to focus on, on on

0:25:18.875,0:25:21.875

helping, students achieve their goal.

0:25:22.166,0:25:25.375

But it's it really

is a phenomenal experience.

0:25:26.458,0:25:28.916

When people say, oh, the youth today

0:25:28.916,0:25:31.666

come up to Ogden Weber Tech

and talk to our high school students

0:25:31.666,0:25:34.458

or any of our young students,

they have grit.

0:25:34.458,0:25:36.208

They have determination.

0:25:36.208,0:25:38.541

I learn from them every single day.

0:25:38.541,0:25:41.541

If I've been wrapped up in meetings  
all day long

0:25:41.750,0:25:44.750

and I'm just like, oh my gosh,  
have I accomplished anything today?

0:25:45.166,0:25:47.750

I know that  
I have to get out of that space and I go

0:25:47.750,0:25:52.166

over to our, our culinary program,  
or I go over to our bookstore.

0:25:52.166,0:25:54.500

I just go into a program, start  
talking to students.

0:25:54.500,0:25:56.125

They're amazing.

0:25:56.125,0:25:59.125

Our community is filled with amazing,  
dedicated,

0:25:59.541,0:26:03.291

hardworking individuals  
that have that grit and determination.

0:26:03.666,0:26:06.666

One of the things that we have found,

0:26:07.458,0:26:11.291

and this really has started  
with Ogden School District, really

0:26:11.750,0:26:15.166

making it part of their culture  
is that we want every student

0:26:15.166,0:26:16.791

to have a tech college experience.

0:26:16.791,0:26:20.541

It's an expectation they'll start talking  
to them about that in junior high school.

0:26:21.125,0:26:25.541

We want all of you to be where you need  
to be with your graduation credits,

0:26:25.583,0:26:27.541

because we want you to go to O-Tech

0:26:27.541,0:26:29.833

students that come to O-Tech  
from Ogden School District.

0:26:29.833,0:26:31.583

If they complete a program,

0:26:31.583,0:26:34.416

they're 99% sure  
that they're going to graduate on time.

0:26:36.166,0:26:39.083

Those students,

0:26:39.083,0:26:42.083

have such a good, positive experience,

0:26:42.875,0:26:45.333

yet showing older brothers and sisters

0:26:45.333,0:26:49.583

and sometimes mom and dad are going,  
oh, that was pretty cool.

0:26:49.791,0:26:51.625

Maybe we're having them enroll.

0:26:51.625,0:26:54.750

We're having high school students complete  
the next year.

0:26:54.750,0:26:57.958

Their parents are enrolling at O-Tech  
and now they have

0:26:57.958,0:27:00.958

this wonderful pathway  
to Weber State as well.

0:27:01.083,0:27:04.500

That's how grit helps other people.

0:27:04.500,0:27:07.083

“Well if my kid can do it.

0:27:07.083,0:27:09.708

I certainly I can do it."

0:27:09.708,0:27:11.083

And and I love that.

0:27:11.083,0:27:12.666

I love that community.

0:27:12.666,0:27:15.666

I think that we have a tendency to

0:27:15.833,0:27:17.916

do it in the line,

0:27:17.916,0:27:21.083

kids these days, like you said,

and your is true.

0:27:21.083,0:27:23.000

They're different, right?

And it's different.

0:27:23.000,0:27:24.375

It's a different generation,

a different time.

0:27:24.375,0:27:28.541

Not I'm not that removed, but I am far enough removed that it's very different.

0:27:29.083,0:27:31.583

But it doesn't mean they're less than right.

0:27:31.583,0:27:32.083

In fact,

0:27:32.958,0:27:34.583

I almost think that

0:27:34.583,0:27:37.583

we didn't really talk about competency when I was young.

0:27:37.791,0:27:38.875

I was like, what you want to do?

0:27:38.875,0:27:42.500

And it's more like, what should you do just to pay the bills?

0:27:42.500,0:27:45.291

And like, well,  
this is a good firm opportunity.

0:27:45.291,0:27:48.250

But you didn't really think about, like,  
what are you wired for?

0:27:48.250,0:27:49.916

How do you align  
your why and your purpose?

0:27:49.916,0:27:54.916

How do you really find your pathway  
that's specifically for you?

0:27:55.083,0:27:58.083

Because when you do that,

0:27:58.208,0:28:01.208  
in like some of the eighth grade, assess  
competency,

0:28:01.583,0:28:04.583

have school counselors

that help you decide your pathway

0:28:04.583,0:28:06.625

through high school

before you even get there.

0:28:06.625,0:28:07.583

Right.

0:28:07.583,0:28:12.625

You are able to align yourself  
with your best chance

0:28:12.625,0:28:15.833

for to be your absolute best, period.

0:28:16.333,0:28:18.375

And it doesn't it feel good  
when you're lined like that?

0:28:18.375,0:28:18.625

Yeah.

0:28:18.625,0:28:21.625

Again, you're and you are serving  
your purpose in this job, right? Yes.

0:28:21.833,0:28:23.083

That's what makes you so good at it

0:28:24.083,0:28:27.083

is you

are a really great man and a great person,

0:28:27.208,0:28:29.166

and you put yourself in the greatest spot

0:28:29.166,0:28:32.166

for your greatest potential,

and you literally achieve your best.

0:28:32.541,0:28:35.541

That's why you're great, right? Well,

0:28:35.625,0:28:40.125

I surround myself with wonderful people

and and I think we're successful

0:28:40.125,0:28:44.666

because we all buy in to this common

mission and vision

0:28:44.958,0:28:49.125

of what we do, not just for our students,  
but we would do for each other.

0:28:49.166,0:28:51.666

Right. And what we do for our community.

0:28:51.666,0:28:54.500

And when you look at that, it's  
not just going in

0:28:54.500,0:28:57.500

and punching a clock  
and putting in eight hours.

0:28:57.750,0:29:02.333

It is what I do cascades out  
for the people I work with here

0:29:02.333,0:29:05.666

at the college, my district,  
my university partners, all the.

0:29:06.333,0:29:11.666

We have over 300 businesses that volunteer  
on our occupational advisory committees.

0:29:11.666,0:29:13.458

They meet twice a year.

0:29:13.458,0:29:15.875

They review our content and curriculum  
and say,

0:29:15.875,0:29:17.416

yeah,  
you don't need to teach that anymore.

0:29:17.416,0:29:19.041

Focus on this.

0:29:19.041,0:29:22.375

And we listen to them  
because they hire our graduates.

0:29:22.583,0:29:25.916

If we're not training them  
for what they need, we missed the mark

0:29:26.250,0:29:27.333

and our faculty are great.

0:29:27.333,0:29:30.333

They're like, oh, I didn't realize  
that the industry has pivoted.

0:29:30.625,0:29:32.875

Okay, we'll do that now. Right.

0:29:32.875,0:29:36.041

And we have faculty that are willing to  
say, I don't know how to do that.

0:29:36.416,0:29:37.166

That's new.

0:29:37.166,0:29:38.750

I didn't learn that when I did it.

0:29:38.750,0:29:41.125

And they're like, well come and spend  
a week with us and we'll train you.

0:29:41.125,0:29:43.041

And we have we have to innovate.

0:29:43.041,0:29:44.208

We have to innovate.

0:29:44.208,0:29:46.625

You have to have continuous learning.

0:29:46.625,0:29:50.625

And I love being surrounded with people  
that are going

0:29:51.250,0:29:55.250

just like, you know, we have talked about  
with with different things.

0:29:55.833,0:29:59.333

If there's a community problem,  
the solution is a community solution.

0:29:59.750,0:30:02.000

Any community problem  
takes a community solve.

0:30:02.000,0:30:07.458

That, that also happens in in smaller  
ecosystems, whether it's a college

0:30:07.458,0:30:10.958

or university or a business,

if there's a problem with the business,

0:30:11.333,0:30:14.250

it takes everybody,

not just, well, I'm in payroll.

0:30:14.250,0:30:17.125

I don't have to do anything.

I just focus on payroll.

0:30:17.125,0:30:20.583

Everyone has to buy into

what the organization does

0:30:20.833,0:30:22.916

in order to have success.

0:30:22.916,0:30:26.125

Now, being in education, we only exist

0:30:26.125,0:30:29.125

to have a greater impact in our community.

0:30:29.458,0:30:32.541

And that's, that's that's the bottom

line of our business model.

0:30:32.541,0:30:35.750

If you're not helping the community,  
you shouldn't be in the business.

0:30:36.625,0:30:37.458

They go away.

0:30:37.458,0:30:39.875

Well, it's not providing a service.

0:30:39.875,0:30:40.541

What are we doing here?

0:30:40.541,0:30:41.416

Right, right.

0:30:41.416,0:30:44.458

Well, I think there's there's a lot of  
value in learning for learning sake.

0:30:44.458,0:30:46.791

Like learning  
is something that I'm passionate about

0:30:46.791,0:30:49.791

because it's for me,  
I it's just part of growth.

0:30:49.791,0:30:50.875

And I love growth.

0:30:50.875,0:30:52.708

I'm like addicted to grow. Right.

0:30:52.708,0:30:55.375

But when you can align learning  
with growth,

0:30:55.375,0:30:58.375

with career and career with life.

0:30:58.875,0:30:59.541

Right.

0:30:59.541,0:31:02.250

And our life  
individually as a part in the collective

0:31:02.250,0:31:05.250

of all of our lives in the community.

0:31:05.541,0:31:06.875

I mean, forget about it. That's.

0:31:06.875,0:31:08.708

Yeah, that's really powerful

0:31:09.708,0:31:11.333

in the

work that you do is really powerful.

0:31:11.333,0:31:13.916

And I think that we as a city

0:31:13.916,0:31:16.916

of people,

the whole the whole city of Ogden,

0:31:16.916,0:31:19.916

we take for granted

what lies right here at our feet.

0:31:20.166,0:31:23.166

And the opportunities

are just right here at our fingertips.

0:31:23.583,0:31:24.208

They really are.

0:31:24.208,0:31:26.541

Well and I think.

0:31:26.541,0:31:29.541

And I've heard you talk about this  
before, but,

0:31:29.666,0:31:32.958

you know, we don't want Ogden  
to be the best kept secret anymore.

0:31:34.541,0:31:35.958

We all know those of us

0:31:35.958,0:31:39.708

that work closely and look at the data,  
and occasionally

0:31:39.708,0:31:43.916

we'll have a great state or national press  
that, hey, Ogden is making a difference.

0:31:44.041,0:31:46.416

Yeah, but then there's

this perception of our community

0:31:46.416,0:31:49.416

that we don't see that  
live and work in the community.

0:31:50.125,0:31:53.708

And I think that's true of  
Ogden Weber Tech, is that we,

0:31:55.041,0:31:55.500

while we're

0:31:55.500,0:31:58.791

having exponential growth,  
we still have individuals who say,

0:31:59.291,0:32:02.000

oh my goodness, you know,  
I've driven past your campus

0:32:02.000,0:32:05.000

my entire life  
and never turned up the road.

0:32:05.166,0:32:05.958

This is beautiful.

0:32:05.958,0:32:07.791

This is gorgeous, absolutely beautiful.

0:32:07.791,0:32:11.750

And it's one of the reasons we we,  
the legislature funded us two years ago

0:32:11.750,0:32:15.291

for a new building that will go out  
at the front entrance of our campus,

0:32:15.291,0:32:19.708

will still have those two beautiful tree  
lined, entrances and exits.

0:32:19.708,0:32:23.583

But it's going to be really kind  
of a jewel for Ogden City.

0:32:23.583,0:32:29.208

It's at the north end of of Ogden City  
proper, but, people on Washington

0:32:29.208,0:32:32.208

Boulevard will say, oh my gosh,  
there's there's a school there.

0:32:32.250,0:32:32.708

Look at that.

0:32:32.708,0:32:35.500

And it's going to be an amazing,  
beautiful building.

0:32:35.500,0:32:38.500

We've had great support  
from the legislature

0:32:38.750,0:32:41.458

because our students  
have made such a huge impact.

0:32:41.458,0:32:42.291

Our students

0:32:43.291,0:32:43.958

are paying

0:32:43.958,0:32:47.916

taxes that are building buildings

all over the state and roads,

0:32:48.291,0:32:52.625

and this is a return of the investment  
that they're making back to our community

0:32:52.625,0:32:55.625

so that we can serve even more students.

0:32:56.208,0:32:58.708

And it's it's needed for our community.

0:32:58.708,0:32:59.750

It's going to be amazing.

0:32:59.750,0:33:00.958

So you made this point

0:33:00.958,0:33:03.958

about not wanting to be the America's  
best kept secret anymore.

0:33:04.750,0:33:09.000

We there's an argument  
to be made along those lines

0:33:10.041,0:33:14.666

because people don't want us  
to turn into something that we're not.

0:33:15.458,0:33:16.541

And I and I get that.

0:33:16.541,0:33:18.583

I 100% agree.

0:33:18.583,0:33:21.041

I want to hang on to who we are,

0:33:21.041,0:33:24.291

but I want to  
I want to be our best of who we are.

0:33:25.166,0:33:25.625

Right?

0:33:25.625,0:33:29.500

There's a big difference, and there's two  
different ways to do those things.

0:33:30.208,0:33:34.583

If we create opportunities

and we don't put ourselves,

0:33:35.375,0:33:38.333

the people that live here grow up here  
who are in our neighborhoods and

0:33:38.333,0:33:38.958

our schools,

0:33:39.958,0:33:40.541

we don't put them in

0:33:40.541,0:33:43.541

a position to take advantage  
of the opportunities we're creating.

0:33:43.666,0:33:46.083

We replace ourselves  
with the people that will.

0:33:46.083,0:33:47.541

Yes. Right. Yeah.

0:33:47.541,0:33:49.500

And so

0:33:49.500,0:33:53.250

I am very intentional in our strategies  
and our work right here

0:33:53.708,0:33:57.083

to make sure that the people we have in  
Ogden are leveling up

0:33:57.500,0:34:00.500

and getting in these pipelines  
for opportunities as much as possible.

0:34:01.000,0:34:03.666

And I know that there will always be  
exceptions of people who don't.

0:34:03.666,0:34:06.041

I know that there will be people  
that come to fill these opportunities.

0:34:06.041,0:34:08.541

That's part of life for world.

0:34:08.541,0:34:11.125

But if you want to be a part and play

0:34:11.125,0:34:13.541

a part of Ogden being its best  
and you already live here,

0:34:13.541,0:34:15.750

there are opportunities  
and access to pathways to do that.

0:34:17.166,0:34:17.625

That's.

0:34:17.625,0:34:20.625

And then when you talk about  
not being in America's best kept secret,

0:34:21.083,0:34:24.083

I want to brag about  
how much our people are leveling up.

0:34:24.375,0:34:25.333

All right?

0:34:25.333,0:34:27.500

I mean, the world  
to know how great our people are.

0:34:27.500,0:34:29.250

And I think you hit the nail on the head  
there.

0:34:29.250,0:34:32.250

We shouldn't be the best kept secret  
for our own community.

0:34:32.541,0:34:34.541

Right. And and and you're right.

0:34:34.541,0:34:38.625

Our job is to take individuals in our  
community, give them technical skills

0:34:39.208,0:34:43.333

so that they can work in our community  
and so that they can

0:34:43.333,0:34:47.208

continue their education  
at the university in our community.

0:34:47.208,0:34:52.041

That's that's really the only we we want  
that's good for employers

0:34:52.041,0:34:55.166

because it's expensive to recruit people  
and they've got to find housing.

0:34:55.375,0:34:57.208

They already live here.

0:34:57.208,0:34:57.500

Right.

0:34:57.500,0:35:00.000

Let's take  
let's have them have that opportunity.

0:35:00.000,0:35:01.125

Yes. Right.

0:35:01.125,0:35:04.958

And let's let them raise a family  
here and build more generations

0:35:05.375,0:35:08.375

of access and opportunity  
and wealth for us.

0:35:08.500,0:35:09.083

Right.

0:35:09.083,0:35:11.958

And if and if you're coming from outside,  
I'm not saying that we're exclusive.

0:35:11.958,0:35:13.458

I came from Arizona.

0:35:13.458,0:35:15.250

Like I'd be a hypocrite, right? Right.

0:35:15.250,0:35:18.291

But let's not forget our people,  
because there's a lot

0:35:18.291,0:35:21.291

of need out there for for upward mobility.

0:35:21.583,0:35:24.000

And the nation actually is taking note.

0:35:24.000,0:35:24.708

Yeah.

0:35:24.708,0:35:27.416

I think you and I talked on the phone  
one day.

0:35:27.416,0:35:30.208

I don't remember what the topic was,  
but you're like, wait, where are you at.

0:35:30.208,0:35:31.333

And I'm like, I'm in Washington, D.C.

0:35:31.333,0:35:34.375

or like before I'm here  
for the Milken Institute

0:35:34.375,0:35:37.458

is recognizing Ogden Weber  
or the Ogden Clearfield Metro

0:35:38.333,0:35:43.166

Statistical Area as the number two economy  
for midsize economy in the country.

0:35:44.250,0:35:46.458

Like the, the numbers bear it out.

0:35:46.458,0:35:50.625

And the reason one of the biggest factors  
for being the number two

0:35:51.208,0:35:54.500

economy in the country was upward  
mobility.

0:35:55.000,0:35:58.708

People have access to upward mobility here  
more than anywhere else in the country.

0:35:59.833,0:36:00.791

That's a big deal.

0:36:00.791,0:36:03.791

Well, we we recognized about a decade ago

0:36:04.208,0:36:07.791

that our demographics  
at the tech college mirrored the county.

0:36:08.375,0:36:13.166

We are way off from the city  
and we said we have the wrong benchmark.

0:36:13.458,0:36:14.916

We shouldn't match Weber County.

0:36:14.916,0:36:17.458

We need to match Ogden City.

0:36:17.458,0:36:19.458

And it's taken us a decade.

0:36:19.458,0:36:22.458

But now over 40% of our students,

0:36:23.500,0:36:26.208

more closely aligned

with the demographics of Ogden.

0:36:26.208,0:36:26.916

There you go.

0:36:26.916,0:36:30.000

And we were not serving those

that we were,

0:36:31.041,0:36:32.708

at the at the same level we should have.

0:36:32.708,0:36:36.208

We weren't serving everyone  
we needed to serve in Ogden.

0:36:36.833,0:36:39.291

And so we talk about that.

0:36:39.291,0:36:42.875

We come right out and say, listen,  
Ogden has always been a diverse community.

0:36:44.000,0:36:47.000

And as the larger Weber County has grown,

0:36:47.375,0:36:50.000

we kind of we're not keeping focus

0:36:50.000,0:36:53.541

on why we were created in 1971.

0:36:55.125,0:36:59.458

And, and we we had to take a step  
back and say, we had to pivot.

0:36:59.750,0:37:03.083

Yeah, we're going to pivot focus on

because we are not serving everyone.

0:37:03.416,0:37:06.416

Does that mean that we're not serving  
the broader Weber County?

0:37:06.666,0:37:08.541

Absolutely not.

0:37:08.541,0:37:10.875

It's it's actually benefited everybody.

0:37:10.875,0:37:14.833

But we were losing our core  
focus on Ogden City,

0:37:14.833,0:37:20.833

which had the most diverse demographic  
and so that's that's our benchmark.

0:37:20.916,0:37:24.166

Are we matching Ogden City,  
which is the largest city in the county,

0:37:24.416,0:37:26.166

for matching that demographic?

0:37:26.166,0:37:29.666

We're serving more and more students  
at all levels.

0:37:30.083,0:37:30.750

Right.

0:37:30.750,0:37:33.750

So let's let's game this out for a minute  
okay.

0:37:33.750,0:37:36.458

We're not just talking about hypotheticals  
or theoretical here.

0:37:36.458,0:37:38.541

We're talking about real pathways  
for people.

0:37:38.541,0:37:42.250

We talked about this with Brad Mortenson,  
how aerospace and defense

0:37:42.708,0:37:45.583

is an enormous sector in the world.

0:37:45.583,0:37:48.000

And then northern Utah is playing

0:37:48.000,0:37:51.000

a world leadership role  
in aerospace and defense.

0:37:51.458,0:37:53.958

And if you look to northern Utah,  
who you're looking to,

0:37:53.958,0:37:55.791

you gotta be looking to Ogden.

0:37:55.791,0:37:59.000

And our partners in the Ogden  
Clearfield MSA,

0:37:59.708,0:38:02.416

because we are the communities  
that surround Hill Air Force Base,

0:38:02.416,0:38:07.708

a world class world  
importance right there a mission

0:38:08.750,0:38:11.041

is enormous.

0:38:11.041,0:38:13.916

Job creator in our backyard.

0:38:13.916,0:38:15.833

We that's the sector

that we want to go after

0:38:15.833,0:38:18.666

because that's the opportunity

that's before us, right.

0:38:18.666,0:38:21.208

Big time contracts. The biggest

in the history of the world.

0:38:21.208,0:38:25.333

All the ecosystem that comes with around

tech, around the mission of, of nukes

0:38:25.333,0:38:27.291

and everything

that's with it. Right? Right.

0:38:27.291,0:38:30.875

So what are the

but that pathway obviously needs,

0:38:31.916,0:38:33.916

skilled workers in computer

0:38:33.916,0:38:36.916

sciences, etc., and engineering in  
particular is a huge need.

0:38:37.250,0:38:39.250

We can provide for that need.

0:38:39.250,0:38:41.875

But there's also a whole other element

0:38:41.875,0:38:46.208

of that of the sector that doesn't require  
the four year degree or more, right?

0:38:46.208,0:38:47.291

Yes. That's correct.

0:38:47.291,0:38:50.291

And that's  
why Brad and I work really closely,  
  
0:38:51.625,0:38:55.791  
with our partners  
in the aerospace, and defense industry,

0:38:57.000,0:39:00.833  
the most useful show for every engineer.

0:39:00.833,0:39:03.833  
You need seven highly trained technicians.

0:39:04.333,0:39:08.791  
So if Brad is told, hey,  
you've got to create 100 new engineers,

0:39:09.083,0:39:12.083  
I've got to create 700 technicians

0:39:12.208,0:39:14.333  
in order to meet that workload.

0:39:14.333,0:39:18.750  
And and we see that  
we're we're seeing new demands outside

0:39:18.750,0:39:22.666

of electrical and mechanical engineering  
in material science engineering.

0:39:22.750,0:39:23.208

Yeah.

0:39:23.208,0:39:28.250

Because we have to create new materials  
for not just missiles,

0:39:28.833,0:39:33.666

but for spacecraft  
and for high speed jets.

0:39:33.666,0:39:36.666

And they are going  
faster than ever before.

0:39:37.041,0:39:39.416

And they need new materials.

0:39:39.416,0:39:41.916

And so you do need engineers for that,

0:39:41.916,0:39:44.750

but you're going to have to have materials  
technicians.

0:39:44.750,0:39:47.750

So I see that our composite  
technician program, which

0:39:48.750,0:39:52.875

our Air Force base, Northrop,  
Lockheed, Albion,

0:39:53.458,0:39:57.500

those are all aerospace companies  
that use our, our composite technicians.

0:39:58.166,0:40:01.166

They're going to start pivoting  
from carbon fiber

0:40:01.250,0:40:04.250

to new materials  
that we don't know what they are yet,

0:40:04.583,0:40:07.708

but they're going to be the ones

prepared to be able to take care of that.

0:40:08.125,0:40:10.125

Our nondestructive inspection technicians.

0:40:10.125,0:40:11.333

Exactly.

0:40:11.333,0:40:11.708

Those.

0:40:11.708,0:40:15.375

Those and the technicians are incredibly,

0:40:15.958,0:40:20.625

busy, in air, aerospace,  
defense and transportation in general.

0:40:21.625,0:40:24.625

When you have \$1 billion,

0:40:25.916,0:40:27.541

F-35,

0:40:27.541,0:40:31.708

you can't just cut it up to see if there's

microscopic fractures in it.

0:40:31.708,0:40:33.625

That's an NDI tech that does that.

0:40:33.625,0:40:36.625

You're also not going to slap any part  
on that thing, and you just can't,

0:40:36.708,0:40:39.875

part is so specialized, so expensive  
and so modernized.

0:40:39.875,0:40:40.250

Right.

0:40:40.250,0:40:44.125

And if you do put a repair on there,  
someone has to test it to make sure

0:40:44.125,0:40:47.125

the repair has that integrity. Right.

0:40:47.666,0:40:50.666

At a, at really a microscopic level.

0:40:50.666,0:40:53.416

And you have to be able to do that  
without destroying the part.

0:40:53.416,0:40:55.375

Correct. So how do you do that?

0:40:55.375,0:40:57.791

X-rays, Cat scans,

0:40:57.791,0:41:00.791

any wave current, mag particle.

0:41:01.000,0:41:01.458

Right.

0:41:01.458,0:41:04.500

Ultrasound, fluoroscopy, all these.

0:41:04.916,0:41:08.000

I'm just throwing out terms  
that, a high school

0:41:08.000,0:41:11.000

student or NDI program says, hey,  
you pronounce them correctly.

0:41:11.166,0:41:13.375

Can you do it? No. They can,

0:41:14.666,0:41:15.791

but but that's how we

0:41:15.791,0:41:18.791

talk about that whole whole ecosystem.

0:41:19.583,0:41:23.750

I think that that beyond that,

as Utah looks at

0:41:23.750,0:41:26.750

what do we want to do in terms of,

0:41:26.875,0:41:29.541

bringing in nuclear power,

0:41:29.541,0:41:33.083

that's really going to

to be a new area for us.

0:41:34.500,0:41:36.458

It is our welders.

0:41:36.458,0:41:39.708

We can

we can pivot and have them do specialized,

0:41:40.416,0:41:44.750

nuclear welding

or our welders that work for Petersen Inc.

0:41:44.750,0:41:47.750

They actually do a lot

in the nuclear industry.

0:41:47.875,0:41:50.875

They have, those specialized

0:41:51.208,0:41:52.791

certifications.

0:41:52.791,0:41:56.083

But it's also going to now

be nuclear technicians

0:41:56.083,0:41:59.958

and control operations

for micro nuclear plants.

0:42:00.083,0:42:02.750

Right. And we want to be at the forefront.

0:42:02.750,0:42:06.333

We want to be able to do that  
in conjunction with Weber State

0:42:06.333,0:42:09.291

so that people aren't  
scratching their head saying,

0:42:09.291,0:42:10.666

where are they going to come from?

0:42:10.666,0:42:13.250

And they're going to come from Ogden Weber  
Tech and Weber State.

0:42:13.250,0:42:13.791

So when they

0:42:13.791,0:42:17.541

when people think about tech colleges,  
specifically Ogden Weber tech college.

0:42:18.208,0:42:21.291

They're thinking traditionally  
they're thinking plumbing and electrical

0:42:21.291,0:42:23.000

and the machining welding.

0:42:23.000,0:42:25.125

And it's those things and

0:42:25.125,0:42:28.125

because it's not to take away  
from those things, those are powerful

0:42:28.166,0:42:32.250

career pathways and opportunities to be  
electrician is serious business, right?

0:42:32.458,0:42:33.208

Right.

0:42:33.208,0:42:38.416

And those guys go into high paying trades  
and oftentimes become entrepreneurs

0:42:38.416,0:42:41.958

and own companies that are an Hvac company  
or an electrical company or whatever.

0:42:41.958,0:42:44.750

Right?

So that's an important pathway.

0:42:44.750,0:42:46.166

We have to have them.

0:42:46.166,0:42:48.500

And all of the things  
that you just described

0:42:48.500,0:42:51.750

as the new way to talk about the Ogden  
Weber Tech college, right?

0:42:52.000,0:42:54.416

That's the new language  
in the new in the future.

0:42:54.416,0:42:56.958

Right. And it's possible. Absolutely.

0:42:56.958,0:43:01.083

So, automation controls, that's  
probably one of our biggest programs.

0:43:01.083,0:43:04.250

Now, welding, is, is our biggest program.

0:43:05.125,0:43:08.958

But automation, everything  
is, is, is pivoting to automation.

0:43:08.958,0:43:12.708

Everything from our traffic  
signals to building controls,

0:43:13.916,0:43:15.625

to information mining.

0:43:15.625,0:43:18.666

Everything is has become automation  
controls.

0:43:18.666,0:43:21.666

We're seeing it in cybersecurity.

0:43:21.708,0:43:26.750

Even with AI, cybersecurity

and information technology systems,

0:43:27.083,0:43:31.375

they're they're evolving  
just like all sciences evolve.

0:43:31.750,0:43:34.875

But the demand at the technician  
level is still significant.

0:43:35.208,0:43:36.750

Health care's another one.

0:43:36.750,0:43:38.250

Health care's one of our

0:43:38.250,0:43:41.250

the biggest things that we do,  
we have a partnership with Weber State,

0:43:41.708,0:43:46.000

Weber State cannot produce enough nurses  
for the demand in the state of Utah.

0:43:46.666,0:43:50.333

So we provide the first year

and students become practical nurses

0:43:50.458,0:43:55.083

the day they graduate they have automatic  
acceptance into Weber State's RN program.

0:43:55.666,0:43:57.708

They go to Weber State.

0:43:57.708,0:44:00.583

They're they 100% of them  
go on to Weber State

0:44:00.583,0:44:02.416

and they finish their associate degree in.

0:44:02.416,0:44:05.291

Most of them finish their bachelor's  
and master's degrees.

0:44:05.291,0:44:08.083

That's expanding opportunity for

0:44:08.083,0:44:11.208

for individuals to have access  
for that medical assistance.

0:44:12.708,0:44:14.041

Dental assistants,

0:44:14.041,0:44:17.041

pharmacy technicians, medical coding  
and billing.

0:44:17.708,0:44:20.791

Our business success certificate  
with entrepreneurs,

0:44:21.708,0:44:25.375

graphic design, automotive,  
our culinary program,

0:44:26.208,0:44:29.458

has a waiting list sometimes  
and they're all going to work.

0:44:29.458,0:44:33.666

We you know, come on, we eat here  
you have phenomenal restaurants,

0:44:33.666,0:44:36.666

some of us more than others. Yes.

0:44:36.791,0:44:39.791

I probably should not talk  
about the O-Tech 15.

0:44:40.458,0:44:45.375

Okay, well, I'll talk about it  
if if you come to O-Tech as an employer,

0:44:45.375,0:44:46.041

as a student,

0:44:46.041,0:44:49.125

you will gain 15 pounds in your first year  
because you're gonna eat so much

0:44:49.125,0:44:53.166

because our culinary program  
is so incredibly cost effective.

0:44:53.416,0:44:55.208

And it is gourmet it is.

0:44:55.208,0:44:56.916

It is phenomenal food.

0:44:56.916,0:44:58.791

Hey, and don't think this haircut happened  
out of nowhere.

0:44:58.791,0:45:03.416

I have my O-Tech grad going through  
the college now as a small business owner.

0:45:03.500,0:45:04.583

There you go.

0:45:04.583,0:45:09.875

All right guys, our cosmetology, nails  
and barbering programs are phenomenal.

0:45:09.875,0:45:11.833

And those are entrepreneurs.

0:45:11.833,0:45:13.916

And many of them are.

0:45:13.916,0:45:16.041

Some are starting their own businesses.

0:45:16.041,0:45:19.791

Some of them say I need a home business

because I'm raising a family.

0:45:20.000,0:45:23.916

But this allows me  
that opportunity to do it. Jim,

0:45:25.666,0:45:28.166

somebody might be watching this  
and wondering, what does all that mean?

0:45:28.166,0:45:30.833

How do I I don't know  
how to get into all that. Right.

0:45:30.833,0:45:34.250

So I want to wrap up by going

0:45:34.250,0:45:37.250

to our call to action  
with a really simple step,

0:45:37.333,0:45:40.250

because you don't have to know  
all of those pathways.

0:45:40.250,0:45:42.833

You don't have to be totally planned out.

0:45:42.833,0:45:43.833

In the end.

0:45:43.833,0:45:46.166

What you have to do

is take the first step.

0:45:46.166,0:45:48.416

Yeah. And we said the same thing

with President Mortenson.

0:45:48.416,0:45:50.625

How do you get involved?

How do you get into the pipeline?

0:45:50.625,0:45:51.583

And that's our call to action

0:45:51.583,0:45:56.250

is if you're looking for a new pathway,

a new opportunity, a new ability

0:45:56.250,0:45:59.375

to level up and find upward mobility,

take your first step.

0:46:00.125,0:46:01.458

That's all you gotta do when you go.

0:46:01.458,0:46:03.208

If you want to go to,

0:46:03.208,0:46:06.625

Ogden Weber Technical College,  
you don't have to know the entire pathway

0:46:06.625,0:46:08.458

that you're going to go,  
not just take the first step

0:46:08.458,0:46:12.208

by pick up the phone, take the first step  
by logging online, or take the first step

0:46:12.208,0:46:15.208

by showing up and saying,  
I want to come to O-Tech

0:46:15.750,0:46:18.750

and you have the resources to align them

and help them with their pathway.

0:46:18.958,0:46:19.708

Absolutely.

0:46:19.708,0:46:22.708

Go go to otech.edu.

0:46:22.916,0:46:25.333

Just drop in on our on our campus.

0:46:25.333,0:46:28.916

We'll we'll take you around

and there's no hard sell.

0:46:29.500,0:46:30.708

We'll take you into a program.

0:46:30.708,0:46:34.458

So ask the students what they like,

what they don't like, talk to the faculty.

0:46:35.375,0:46:38.875

If you're not sure what you want to do,

we'll visit all 35 programs.

0:46:38.875,0:46:39.416

If you want.

0:46:41.083,0:46:41.958

If you go to the

0:46:41.958,0:46:45.208

Ogden Farmers Market,

we have a booth there every Saturday.

0:46:45.708,0:46:48.708

Drop in and just say, hey,

0:46:49.708,0:46:51.208

I'm interested, but I don't know what

0:46:51.208,0:46:54.208

I need to do,

or I'm thinking something in health.

0:46:54.708,0:46:56.125

Can you help me? Let's explore.

0:46:56.125,0:46:57.833

Our folks are there to help you.

0:46:57.833,0:47:00.833

Oh, we're we are in the success business.

0:47:01.000,0:47:03.625

We're not in the business to talk you

0:47:03.625,0:47:06.625

into something that you're  
not going to be successful for.

0:47:06.708,0:47:08.666

And we filled that.

0:47:08.666,0:47:10.750

You know, we're very exclusive, mayor.

0:47:10.750,0:47:15.166

We only accept the top 100%  
that apply at Ogden Weber Tech.

0:47:15.208,0:47:17.958

There you go.

But they're up to the top 100%.

0:47:17.958,0:47:22.583

Just have to take that first step

by making that bet on yourself.

0:47:22.625,0:47:24.541

Yeah, just place that bet on yourself.

0:47:24.541,0:47:26.000

Take that first step.

0:47:26.000,0:47:28.125

You're going to find a pathway

that works for you.

0:47:28.125,0:47:31.666

If this isn't the right pathway,

somewhere along the way, you realize that

0:47:32.000,0:47:33.916

it doesn't matter

because our other partners,

0:47:33.916,0:47:37.458

we will accept you into that pathway

and you'll find your pathway

0:47:37.833,0:47:40.166

when you get into the aerospace

and defense industry.

0:47:40.166,0:47:44.208

As an example, there are so many different opportunities and pathways.

0:47:44.500,0:47:48.166

You just need to take that first step, get started and you will find your way.

0:47:48.625,0:47:50.541

That pathway, that's your journey.

0:47:50.541,0:47:52.208

It's yours. Yours alone.

0:47:52.208,0:47:53.750

And you won't be alone

0:47:53.750,0:47:56.916

because this is a thriving industry and a thriving pathway, right?

0:47:57.500,0:47:59.458

But take that first step.

0:47:59.458,0:48:01.083

Make that bet on yourself.

0:48:01.083,0:48:03.708

You will find a way, and you're going  
to be supported by leaders

0:48:03.708,0:48:07.041

and people that care, like President  
Taggart, Jim Taggart,

0:48:07.583,0:48:10.583

president of Ogden Weber Technical  
College, thanks for joining us today.

0:48:11.000,0:48:13.041

Thanks for inviting the Ogden Way.

0:48:13.041,0:48:17.041

Thanks for caring so deeply about  
unknowns, people that I know for a fact

0:48:17.041,0:48:20.041

you could go anywhere you want  
and be anywhere else you want to be,

0:48:20.208,0:48:23.333

but this is where you are  
because this is where you're meant to be.

0:48:23.750,0:48:25.375

This is your purpose.

0:48:25.375,0:48:26.000

Thanks, mayor.

0:48:26.000,0:48:27.916

Thank you.  
Thanks for being a part of Ogden.

0:48:29.041,0:48:31.041

We wouldn't be the same without you.

0:48:31.041,0:48:33.333

Thanks for joining us here  
at the Ogden Way Podcast, the place

0:48:33.333,0:48:37.000

where we talk about the stories of Ogden  
by telling the story of Ogden's people.

0:48:37.000,0:48:40.000

And today we told the story about Ogden's  
leader, Jim Taggart.

0:48:40.250,0:48:41.666

But it's more than about him.

0:48:41.666,0:48:43.500

It's about us, it's about Ogden.

0:48:43.500,0:48:46.000

It's about pathways  
to access and opportunity.

0:48:46.000,0:48:47.083

That's what we do.

0:48:47.083,0:48:50.791

So step in your own greatness  
by stepping in your own opportunities.