



Metalcasting's Next Generation

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Insatiable need to learn

Mike May, a 28-year-old foundry manager for Salt Lake City-based May Foundry and Machine, has made an impressive mark in his short time in the industry. He oversees 25 employees in the melting, molding, cleaning room, and heat-treatment operations.



According to Mike's father, Mark May, foundry work was supposed to be just a way to bankroll Mike's more ambitious venture: ski racing. While attending school part-time, May also raced competitively. But, as the level of competition rose on the slopes, two undeniable truths emerged for May: the guys he was skiing against were significantly better than him and, more importantly, he was starting to love his part-time job.

May began simply, driving a truck and working in the office with payables and receivables. Quickly, he moved up to become EH&S manager, and now foundry manager.

"Mike is a skilled manager of people," says Mark. "His ski racing and coaching have given him great insight into how to deal with people. He is the fourth generation at our foundry and a true leader."

May jokes that he's a jack of all trades and master of none. But, he touches on a broader truth. The skill a manager must possess today, he says, is the ability to oversee multiple departments and understand their individual pressures and needs.

"Everything moves so much quicker in this industry," he says. "You compare it to my father's era and the generation before that, and it's not even close. The speed at which you have to have castings ready — and to be able to solve problems when they arise — it's all happening so much faster."