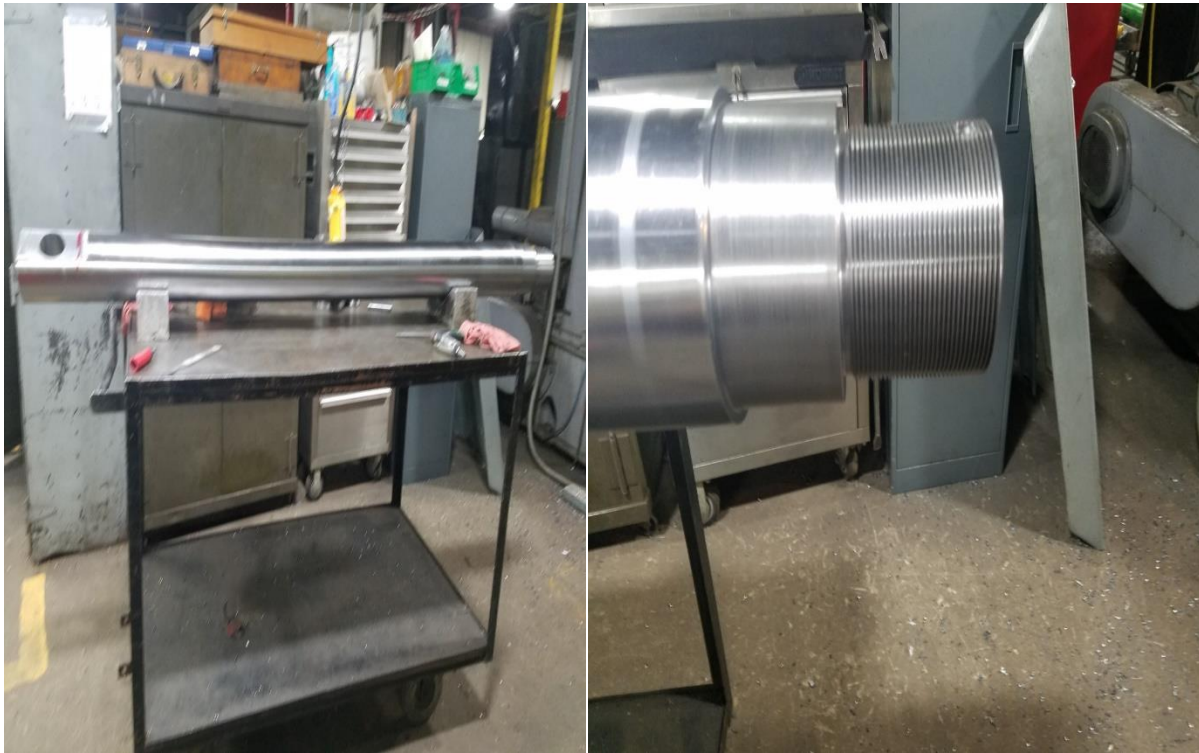


Female Precision Machining Student excelling in a non-traditional trade for women.

Precision Machining usually is not the first trade a student thinks about choosing when coming to Vinal, but for one student, they certainly are glad they did! Her name is Alexis and she is currently a senior in the Precision Machining Technology. Alexis has always worked hard and given her best on a daily basis to learn the trade. Those efforts have payed off recently by her starting a Machine Apprenticeship Program at Dependable Hydraulics in Branford under the WBL program. The Work Based Learning program allows students to work, learn and earn at their sponsor company during the school year. They are allowed to work during the school day gaining valuable real world experience and training on the job and also receive school credit for participating in the program. It is a win-win for both the student and employer.

Dependable Hydraulics repair, service and sell all types of hydraulic components, pumps, valves, motors, hydraulic winches, gear boxes, collectors, accumulators, steering boxes, cylinders, and much more. They also have a full machine shop, which is the department that Alexis works in to machine components to customer specifications. The work varies daily and can be quite challenging at times. Below is a picture of a hydraulic cylinder that Alexis machined and repaired making it functional again.



Alexis is looking forward to completing her apprenticeship and to continue her career at Dependable Hydraulics upon graduation in June. Great job Alexis, Vinal Tech is proud of your accomplishments!