

## Michael (Louisiana)



Michael recently obtained full time employment with State Machinery Equipment Sales & Rentals, and is responsible for performing maintenance on the heavy equipment rentals. He also performs demonstrations to potential clients.

As part of his job, Michael travels independently to different construction sites to test out the machinery. Michael enjoys being his own boss. “I’m still in shock that my supervisor allows me to work without supervision. It’s the first time I’ve felt like an adult!”

When Michael began seeking employment, employers would offer wages less than the state required minimum wage. Luckily, State Machinery who took notice of all the great qualities that Michael has and had no problem paying Michael what he is worth.

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“Increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to achieve competitive, integrated employment is so important because it fosters independence,” said Amarachi Ukachu, Transition Employment Specialist. “For Michael specifically, just being able to pay for a family dinner outing makes him feel like he is contributing to his household and increases his self-esteem.”

The encouragement and support that Michael received from his parents and loved ones motivated him to obtain and maintain his employment status. His family was very dedicated during the job search process and helped out whenever they could.