



Mark S. Schwendau

Retired Technology Professor
of CAD-CAM
Kishwaukee College
Malta, Illinois 60150

Mark Schwendau has taught drafting and CAD for 40 years in all levels of education; high school, area vocational center, community college and university. He even taught in several Illinois prisons including Joliet!

He has a Bachelors degree in Industrial Education and a Masters degree in Industrial Management from [Northern Illinois University](#). He holds a 6-12 Illinois teacher certificate. He also holds double minor degrees in OSHA safety and Illinois Driver's Education for training cars, trucks, motorcycles, and deaf drivers.

Mark has appeared on television promoting technical education 7 times in the Chicago and Rockford television markets. Some of his appearances are on YouTube.

Mark has written 7 books on the subjects of drafting, CAD and employment practices for students of same. He has also written numerous trade journal articles and sits on Tech Directions (formerly School Shop) Editorial Advisory and Peer Review Boards.

In 1982 he became the first secondary teacher in Illinois to teach CAD as a regular part of his drafting program. He wrote, and was interviewed, for many journal articles on CAD. His most famous article was published in [School Shop](#) in the spring of 1983 and was titled "Purchasing a CAD System". This article launched Mark into the National spotlight as it helped many drafting educators transition to CAD. The most lucrative piece he wrote was titled "The Future of CAD". This article won him \$1,200 and a Second Place finish in a [Design Graphics World](#) magazine writing contest. As a sideline, he was Illinois' first CAD dealer for T&W Systems CAD software.

In 1990 Mark took a position as Drafting and Design instructor at Kishwaukee College. Over his 26 years there he helped transition the program to Computer-Aided Design. He also taught in the CIS department when they were without a full-time faculty member. He was the first instructor of MS Windows as well as web design. He designed both the first faculty and program websites of the college. He regularly taught online courses in WebCT, Blackboard, Desire2Learn and Moodle.

Mark has won numerous teaching awards including honorable mentions in the ISBE's "Those Who Excel" teaching awards program where he was twice ranked as one of the top 20 teachers in the state as a runner up for Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Mark retired from Kishwaukee College in 2016. In 2017 he became a consultant for Rockford Career College of AHED where he developed their first CAD program. In 2018 he went to work as a CAD-CAM technician for Accurate Metals Illinois (AMI), also of Rockford. He worked there for 3 years until 2020 when the COVID crisis took his job. At AMI he assisted with the introduction of bringing text fonts to their metal cutting operations as well as the introduction of laser cutters to their operations.