



SUCCESSOR

Kelly Roepke
Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc., Illinois

Kelly Roepke has been in training to take over the family business since she was 8 years old. She and sister Erin Swingler painted fences and swept floors at Y-Yard Auto & Truck under the watchful gaze of their father Mike Nolan.

“We worked weekends and summers,” remembered Swingler, Y-Yard Auto & Truck vice president. “Eventually, we got promoted to dismantling. We had to learn to tear down cars before we could drive our own cars. That was the rule.”

“I taught them how to answer the phones and work the equipment,” said Nolan. “I drove them through the salvage pools.”

He also encouraged them to get a degree and to experience the world outside Y-Yard Auto & Truck. That’s why Roepke earned a degree in elementary education from Illinois State University. She became a first grade teacher.

Three years later, when Nolan had surgery, Roepke took a leave of absence to help the business.

“She decided to see what the family business had to offer her and what she had to offer it,” said Swingler. “She decided that was this was the place she wanted to be.”

“It’s worked out great and she’s done a fantastic job,” said Nolan, who officially handed over the business to Roepke on January 1, 2007. ❧

BY FELICIA LOWENSTEIN NIVEN • PHOTO: SPIKE POWERS PHOTOGRAPHY

LOCAL HERO

Tom Snyder
Snyder’s Auto Body & Paint, Iowa

Tom Snyder, co-owner of Snyder’s Auto Body & Paint in Clarinda, Iowa, is passionate about sharing his automotive recycling knowledge with others. Since 2004, he has been involved with the local high school’s Internship, Work Experience and Mock Interviews programs. Through these programs, Snyder has helped students gain job skills and learn firsthand about auto recycling. In 2008, the school recognized him for his participation.

“If Tom’s interested in something, they get 100 percent of him,” said Frank Snyder, his father and business partner.



Snyder has also been a board member of the Iowa Automotive Recyclers for years according to Mike Waterbury, Sandhill Auto Salvage, Tama, Iowa.

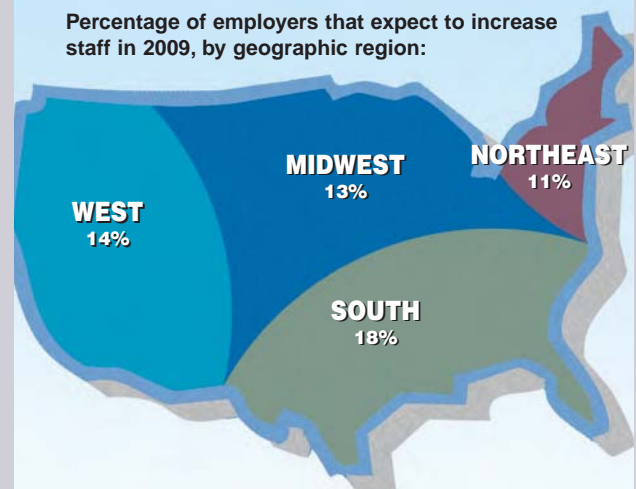
“He puts a lot of hours into it,” said Waterbury.

“He researches everything. He’s a pretty knowledgeable guy, someone definitely to look up to.” ❧

BY ERIN SANDAGE • PHOTO: THE LOCATOR

WHERE THE JOBS ARE

Percentage of employers that expect to increase staff in 2009, by geographic region:



SOURCE: CAREERBUILDER.COM