

Niko Gibbs

Lead CNC Machinist, Aerospace Lathe and Mill Operations

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STRENGTHS

- ⚙️ **Complex Setup Judgment**
When documentation was incomplete, created workable setups, fixtures, and tooling that gave teammates a repeatable path forward.
- 👥 **Engineering Partnership**
Raised drawing and manufacturability concerns early. That conversation helped protect material, timing, and confidence in final parts.
- 🎓 **Practical Mentoring**
Newer machinists received calm guidance during difficult setups, inspection checks, and troubleshooting. Questions became safer and more productive.
- ✅ **Quality Discipline**
Used CMM data, precision instruments, SPC, and calibration awareness to catch process drift before it became a larger issue.
- ⚡ **Production Adaptability**
When prototype demand shifted, reorganized priorities and tooling choices so development work and scheduled production could move together.

SKILLS

<u>CNC lathes</u>	<u>CNC mills</u>
<u>I.G.F. functions</u>	<u>EDGE CAM</u>
<u>CNC programming</u>	
<u>Machine setups</u>	
<u>Prototype machining</u>	
<u>Experimental machining</u>	
<u>Blueprint interpretation</u>	
<u>Shop mathematics</u>	<u>Trigonometry</u>
<u>SPC</u>	<u>CMM inspection</u>

SUMMARY

Advanced **CNC machinist** with 10 years of progressive experience supporting **aerospace** and precision manufacturing operations. Programs, sets up, and operates CNC lathes and mills, including **I.G.F. functions**, **EDGE CAM**, complex workholding, prototype machining, and experimental development. Applies shop mathematics, trigonometry, metals knowledge, and practical tooling judgment when formal process documentation is incomplete. Interprets blueprints, **engineering specifications**, quality directives, charts, sketches, and verbal instructions with care. Performs dimensional inspection using gages, calipers, micrometers, comparators, surface plate techniques, and CMM data. Partners with engineering on drawing issues, manufacturability, tooling design, process control, SPC, calibration, lean improvement, and production priorities. Mentors machinists through difficult setups, safe equipment practices, inspection methods, and practical troubleshooting, helping teams deliver accurate parts with steady quality.

EXPERIENCE

Lead CNC Machinist, Aerospace Components

Skyline Precision Aerostructures 📅 May 2023 - Present 📍 Wichita, KS

Leads complex lathe and mill operations for precision aerospace components, balancing prototype development, scheduled production, engineering coordination, quality control, mentoring, and changing workload priorities.

- Balanced **prototype machining** with scheduled production using clear workload priorities and controlled CNC setups.
- Generated I.G.F. lathe programs and **EDGE CAM** toolpaths for challenging **aerospace** geometries and first piece approval.
- Built jigs, **fixtures**, and **temporary tooling** when incomplete documentation required practical process development decisions.
- Raised drawing conflicts with engineering before material commitment, preventing avoidable manufacturability and process problems.
- Verified dimensions through CMM, micrometers, calipers, gages, comparators, and **surface plate** inspection methods.
- Mentored newer machinists on safe setups, inspection technique, troubleshooting, and disciplined machine operation.

Senior CNC Machinist, Aerospace Hardware

Vector Flight Components 📅 February 2020 - April 2023 📍 Tulsa, OK

Supported multiple **CNC lathes** and mills for close tolerance aerospace hardware, combining **programming**, prototype work, process troubleshooting, inspection, lean improvement, and hands on training.

- Adapted tooling and cutting strategies across multiple CNC machines for changing materials and part geometries.
- Edited **EDGE CAM** and control programs, applying **trigonometry** to resolve setup and dimensional challenges.
- Machined prototype and experimental parts from drawings, sketches, specifications, and engineering direction.
- Corrected tooling, workholding, dimensional, and sequence problems with minimal supervisory guidance during production.
- Used precision instruments, **CMM** data, and **SPC** trends to identify process drift before nonconformance grew.
- Improved setup organization and tooling readiness while training machinists in inspection and practical troubleshooting.

CNC Machinist, Precision Manufacturing

High Plains Aerospace Manufacturing 📅 June 2018 - January 2020 📍 Oklahoma City, OK

Precision measuring

Lean manufacturing

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Intermediate

MY CAREER



● Lead CNC Machinist, Aerospace Components at Skyline Precision Aerostructures (3.4 Years)

● Senior CNC Machinist, Aerospace Hardware at Vector Flight Components (3.2 Years)

● CNC Machinist, Precision Manufacturing at High Plains Aerospace Manufacturing (1.6 Years)

● Machinist, CNC and Manual Operations at Central Plains Machine Works (1.5 Years)

Operated and **set up** CNC mills and lathes for precision components, building capability through increasingly complex assignments, inspection control, equipment care, safety, and process improvement.

- Set up **CNC mills** and lathes for precision components with accurate offsets, tooling, and machining sequences.
- Interpreted **blueprints**, charts, specifications, and quality instructions before selecting tools and establishing offsets.
- Edited CNC programs and supported prove outs, checking dimensions with **gages** and precision instruments.
- Maintained SPC records and confirmed **calibration** status before using measuring equipment for inspection decisions.
- Cleaned and cared for equipment, preserving machine accuracy while following plant safety requirements.
- Shared tooling and work sequence ideas during **continuous improvement** discussions for recurring aerospace parts.

Machinist, CNC and Manual Operations

Central Plains Machine Works 📅 November 2016 - May 2018 📍 Wichita, KS

Built foundational machining capability across manual and CNC equipment, preparing workholding, performing inspection, documenting issues, maintaining safe work areas, and completing supervised cross training.

- Completed production work from drawings and shop instructions under established quality controls and supervision.
- Prepared workholding, tooling, offsets, and basic setups for **lathe** and mill operations.
- Applied shop mathematics while checking in process dimensions with **calipers**, **micrometers**, and gages.
- Flagged tool wear, dimensional variation, and equipment concerns before defects could continue through production.
- Maintained clean machines and orderly work areas during material movement and machining operations.
- Expanded CNC, inspection, and troubleshooting capability through supervised cross training and practical shop assignments.

PROJECTS

Prototype Fixture Development 📅 2024

Worked with engineering and machinists on temporary fixtures for complex prototype parts. Practical feedback shaped repeatable setups, clearer inspection points, and smoother handoffs for later builds.

Lean Tooling Readiness Improvement 📅 2022

Collaborated with shop teammates on tooling organization and setup preparation. Shared observations from production, reduced searching, and made changing workload priorities easier to manage.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Lead Machinist Recognition, Skyline Precision Aerostructures, 2025
- Lean Improvement Contributor Recognition, Vector Flight Components, 2022
- Mentor Recognition for Machinist Training, Skyline Precision Aerostructures, 2024

EDUCATION

High School Diploma

Wichita North High School 🎓 GPA: 3.5 📅 2016 📍 Wichita, KS

Coursework: *Blueprint reading, shop mathematics, machining fundamentals, workplace safety*

CERTIFICATIONS

- CNC Certified Operator Status 📅 2024

- Statistical Process Control Training 📅 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **CNC Programming:** I.G.F. functions, EDGE CAM, control editing
- **CNC Equipment:** CNC lathes, CNC mills, CNC support equipment
- **Prototype Machining:** Development work, experimental work, first piece inspection
- **Tooling and Workholding:** Jigs, fixtures, temporary tooling, tooling design
- **Inspection Instruments:** Gages, calipers, micrometers, comparators
- **Advanced Inspection:** CMM, surface plate techniques, dimensional inspection
- **Engineering Documentation:** Blueprints, engineering specifications, quality directives
- **Process Control:** SPC, calibration controls, process monitoring
- **Machining Mathematics:** Shop mathematics, trigonometry, metals processing
- **Manufacturing Improvement:** Lean manufacturing, continuous improvement, cost reduction
- **Safety and Equipment Care:** Safety procedures, machine cleaning, equipment reliability
- **Workplace Systems:** Email, employee self service systems, automated systems

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Aerospace manufacturing quality and process improvement participant
- CNC machining mentorship and shop training contributor

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST