

Niko Gibbs

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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

May 2023 - Present

Skyline Precision Aerostructures

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

February 2020 - April 2023

Vector Flight Components

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

June 2018 - January 2020

High Plains Aerospace Manufacturing

Oklahoma City, OK

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

November 2016 - May 2018

Central Plains Machine Works

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

SKILLS

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|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • CNC lathes | • CNC programming | • Blueprint interpretation | • CMM inspection |
| • CNC mills | • Machine setups | • Shop mathematics | • Precision measuring |
| • I.G.F. functions | • Prototype machining | • Trigonometry | • Lean manufacturing |
| • EDGE CAM | • Experimental machining | • SPC | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST