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- SETH OPGENORTH
SUPERVISOR OF ADVANCED MFG ENGINEER

COOL THINGS

Seth Opgenorth thinks his job, his company and his team have one thing in common: they are all cool.

Yaskawa embedded software engineer, recently promoted to supervisor, works primarily on CNC UI and motion control software for the company. He likes the challenges of his job, the collaboration of the team and the way the company promotes innovation.

“I’m kind of big into this stuff,” Seth said. “I’m always looking for cool things to work on and there’s a lot of opportunity for that at Yaskawa. I really like the company. I like the way my leadership notices you when you show a strong desire to pursue an area of interest. They help you toward your goals. I guess you could say that’s pretty cool, too.”

Seth started out at Yaskawa working a 6-month internship with the apps team in Waukegan. In fact, he had two internships and has now worked at the company for 7 years, including a 5-year run in San Jose. In that time, Seth advanced in responsibilities and was eventually put in charge of full product development.

The work has enabled Seth to do what he likes doing most. “In college, I really liked 3D printing because I enjoyed seeing how everything moved together. Seeing stuff move is interesting to me. And I’ve had every chance to do that kind of work at Yaskawa from my first day,” he said.

“And, I’ve had opportunities to stretch my skills. For instance, I’ve gotten to work on mechanical design challenges even though I’m really a software engineer. It’s helpful when you have a working understanding on how the software is used. You get the full picture. You get to appreciate how what you do with the software makes things happen.”

“Understanding the engineering side teaches you to think deeper. You are more able to analyze a problem and break it down into solvable chunks.”

Solving those challenges as part of a team is also appealing to Seth.

“My team is very tight, even though we work remotely from each other,” he said. We are all very strong collaborators. We listen to each other well. We communicate clearly. We share ideas openly. We are always on the same page. That’s important because we all have to agree on a solution before we present it to a customer. We all know it’s important to present a united front. So, even if one of us disagrees, we speak as one to the customer.”

Seth said he is happy to work at Yaskawa.

“It’s the kind of place where leadership actually listens to your ideas. Appreciates your contributions. They really care. And, they see beyond what is now. It’s a years-at-a-time perspective. I guess that’s how Yaskawa keeps its people around forever.”

