

Precision, Passion, and the Next Generation: Inside Currie Enterprises with Ray Currie

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The hum of machines, the smell of cutting oil, and the steady rhythm of fabrication are all part of a normal day at Currie Enterprises in Corona. On a recent afternoon, however, the shop floor carried a different kind of energy.

A group of students from Silver Valley High School, participating in the Ultra4 Racing Next program, toured the facility to see firsthand how the parts that power off-road racing vehicles are built. For many of them, it was their first time inside a working manufacturing shop. For Ray Currie, the visit was a reminder of how his own path into the industry began.

A Family Business Built from a Garage

Currie Enterprises began in 1959 when Frank Currie started building drivetrain components out of his garage. As demand grew, the company moved into a larger facility and eventually expanded into the performance off-road industry, producing heavy duty axles and drivetrain parts used in racing, rock crawling, and custom builds.

Today, the company operates from a large manufacturing complex in Corona and is known throughout the off-road world for precision built components designed to withstand extreme conditions. For Ray Currie, that commitment to quality has never changed.

“Precision, in my mind, means the precise fit of parts, precise machining, and proper metallurgy of those parts,” Currie said. “Anywhere high performance is part of the job, precision becomes extremely important in every aspect of the work.”

Learning by Doing

As Ultra4 Next students moved through the facility, they watched technicians machining axles, assembling differentials, and inspecting components built to survive the punishment of desert racing and rock crawling. The visit was more than a tour. It was a chance to see the real careers behind the machines.

Currie understands the importance of that exposure, especially for students who may be considering careers in skilled trades or manufacturing.

“The skills you learn in a shop are very universal,” Currie said. “Even if you do not go into manufacturing, those skills help you work on your own equipment and solve problems.”

Those skills include measuring materials, welding components, machining parts, and understanding mechanical systems. They are the same skills Currie first learned decades ago in high school shop classes.

“When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to be in a fantastic shop program,” Currie said. “We had a wood shop, metal shop, and auto shop, and the teachers worked together to make sure students could experience all of them.”

That experience helped shape his career and laid the foundation for the company he helps lead today.

Opportunity in Manufacturing

As the students finished their tour, the message Currie hoped they would take with them was not only about machines or parts. It was about opportunity.

Manufacturing careers, especially in specialized industries like motorsports, offer long-term stability and the chance to build a career through hands-on skills.

“There have been times when we ran ads just looking for someone who could run a manual machine or do basic welding, and nobody applied,” Currie said.

The shortage of skilled workers is something many manufacturers face today, but Currie believes the students walking through the shop could be part of the solution.

“If we have 25 or 30 people here today who actually want to do this kind of work, that is a good sign,” he said. “Most of the guys in the shop have been with us for over twenty years. They built their skills over time and worked their way up to making excellent products.”

Looking Toward the Future

More than sixty years after Frank Currie first began building differentials in his garage, the company continues to grow while holding on to the same hands on approach that built its reputation. Today, Ray works alongside the next generation of the family, continuing the legacy of craftsmanship and innovation.

For the students walking through the shop, the future of the industry became easier to see. A career in off-road racing or manufacturing does not always begin on a race course.

Sometimes it begins in a shop, learning how to measure, cut, weld, and build something that lasts.

Just like it did for Ray Currie.