

PASSION FOR JACKSON

Contributor: John Campau of Comtronics here in Jackson
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University of Michigan graduates are often swept away to large firms in other states, lured by big cities and substantial salaries. This is not that story. This is the story of a Jackson native who brought his knowledge and experience back home because he believed that Jackson was the place to build a business.

Joining his family business after graduation, John Campau says “Comtronics was a small company back then, but I have always believed that passion leads to happiness and success.”

When a person is passionate about something, whether it’s playing the cello, racing cars or building a business, nothing can get in their way. A German poet once said, “Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.”

John exemplifies this. He now has 12 retail stores in Michigan and serves 42,000 customers in nine states. In Jackson alone, he has 4 store locations. Even though the economy would make others “wait and see,” John invested over \$1.5 million, using local contractors, building his newest store at the corner of Brown and Michigan.

With over 100 employees, John also believes in hiring and training locally as well as giving back to charities. He understands the cycle of economics:

- A local business’ success is dependent on a strong local economy
- A strong local economy is built upon
 - #1 employed and educated residents,
 - #2 a viable non-profit sector and
 - #3 competition from other local businesses.

The healthy community is built on strong businesses but each independent business is dependent on the strength of its community.

John Campau was named 2001 Small Business Person of the Year (by the Chamber) and 2006 Citizen of the Year (by the Jackson Citizen Patriot). He says, “At Comtronics, we are committed to helping Jackson reach its fullest potential by investing time and money into our business and into our community.”