May 21st, 2019

Dave Thibodeau and Kelly Schultz

Ska Brewing Company

225 Girard Street

Durango, CO 81303

Dear Dave and Kelly,

Thank you for having us at Ska Brewery and giving us an amazing tour. Your knowledge, drive, and determination taught us a lot about the brewery business. Dave, your entrepreneurial spirit inspired us greatly.

It was interesting to hear about how Dave and Bill started Ska Brewery because of their love and passion for craft beer. It was inspiring to hear how successful Ska has been, especially considering how they entered the market when society’s interest in craft beer had not yet peaked. We found it interesting to hear how the industry has changed over the last decade and how because of that change business has been dealt with differently.

A few aspects of Ska that students were really impressed by was Ska’s implementation of using green/solar energy to help run its energy structure, setting itself as an example to the community. Meeting the employees and seeing how well Ska treats its’ employees shows how if a business treats their employees well, they will reap those benefits. Many students found it super awesome that Ska offers yoga to their employees and how Dave and Kelly knew all their fellow co-workers by name. The energy and environment that Ska has created is one of a kind and should be a model to other businesses.

On behalf of Fort Lewis’s Local Business class, thank you Dave and Kelly for an amazing tour!