

Joel Klippert, '69

President, Klip BioTechnologies, LLC

If you were a car, what model and make would you be and why?

I'd love to say a Ferrari Testarossa because I'm fast and outrageous. But really, I'm more like the new Tesla that is electric, eco-friendly. And made to perform from a green initiative.

Joel Klippert graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1994, before spending three years at Baden Sports in Federal Way, where he worked in sales and marketing of basketballs to high schools and college basketball programs. He shifted to selling composite goods and began seeing a need for more eco-friendly products. In 2001, he started his own composite company with his wife.

"We've been doing that for the past seven years," he said, noting that starting and growing his own business from the ground up without much formal business training is one of the most rewarding things he has done in his life.

"Just starting a company and pushing all your chips in the middle of the table at 33 years old, with a wife and kid who you support, is probably what I'm most proud of," he said. "My whole business plan was that we were going to make recycled paper skateboard ramp surface composite. And we started doing that out of our garage in 2001.

"We took a \$20,000 loan and we were basically profitable by week two of being in business, because pro skaters like Tony Hawk and Ryan Sheckler, both world champions at the time, were interested in using eco-friendly products and a couple of the largest skate ramp manufacturers bought full truck loads from day one." Article location:

<http://www.businessexaminer.com/joel-klippert-69>

