

Polk State / Mid-Florida MSCA - Student Speakers Bureau

Date: January 8, 2014

Event: Grand Opening of the Polk State College Advanced Technology Center

Student Speaker: David Bach

Attendance: ~400 employers and community leaders from Mid-Florida

Summary:

David is a veteran of the United States Navy with experiences in the electrical field. As he was searching for employment, he contacted Polk State about the ETAM initiative and he enrolled in the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council [MSSC] Certified Production Technician [CPT] program. His goal was to obtain employment within the manufacturing industry and use the CPT as means of separating himself from other applicants. After successful completion and CPT certification, he was hired for an entry level position at JDC Phosphate in Ft. Meade. Because of the experiences with the CPT program and his understanding that certifications could put him on a fast track for promotion, he attended three more ETAM classes - Robotics, Certified Quality Improvement Associate and Lean Bronze. As a result, he received two more national certifications from the American Society for Quality [ASQ]. JDC recognizing his initiative rewarded his activity with a promotion to a supervisory position. Not wanting to stop there, and with the encouragement of JDC, Dave enrolled in the Engineering Technology AS Degree program where he was able to take advantage of the fifteen credit hours articulated to this degree by successfully receiving the CPT certification. Upon completion of the AS Degree, Dave will be positioned to continue his upward climb within JDC Phosphate. The ETAM program / Industry Certification / Engineering Technology pathway has created a win-win for the employee and the employer.

Speech Highlights:

David outlined the importance of education and opportunity. Opportunity was available and he seized the moment and as a result, got excited about skill set enhancement because employment doors began to open. He told the audience that employers appeared to be more interested in talking with him when he relayed he was involved in short term training programs at Polk State. The employers wanted people that wanted to help themselves.

David continued by discussing how Polk State was able to connect him with employers that were interested in individuals like him and reminded everyone that they too could be a part of this solution. He will continue to be an advocate for the Polk State College and their short term training programs that link to national certifications and articulated college credit!

