

SUCCESS STORY

James Bolding



Situation

James Bolding served in the United States Air Force for four years as a Munitions Systems Specialist. As a disabled veteran, and with help from the Department of Veterans Affairs, James was given the opportunity to expand his education. He aspired to work for Wynnewood Refining Company in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, which operates an oil refinery near his hometown of Davis, Oklahoma, but he needed new high-tech skills to do so.

Action

James was able to pursue his ambitions by enrolling in an Advanced Manufacturing program at Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



James quickly proved that he was more than ambitious by exhibiting his dedication for success by driving 188 miles to attend school every day. He discovered that the program at Francis Tuttle provided him much more than an education, he was afforded a future. He stated that his instructors, "took his success personally", feeling that each instructor wanted to make sure he was successful in his every endeavor.

His experience serving in the Air Force provided him a strong set of leadership skills and work ethic that he was able to display through various professional responsibilities, such as serving as chapter President for the local Student Chapter of International Society of Automation (ISA). Through this experience his self-confidence and future aspirations continued to grow.

James graduated from Francis Tuttle's Advanced Manufacturing program with a certificate in Instrumentation & Control Systems. He was eager to use his newly enhanced skills to begin working for the Wynnewood refinery. His goal became a reality.

Results

James began as an Instrument Apprentice to learn the refinery operations. He then moved to the position of Instrument Journeyman, and has recently been appointed Continuous Emissions Monitor Systems (CEMS) Instrument Technician.

He has continued to demonstrate his leadership and dedication for his profession by serving as a Labor Committee member for the International Union of Operating Engineers, which he was elected to serve by his colleagues. He also serves both his profession and fellow workers by serving as a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

From Military to Manufacturing:

In the Air Force, MOS codes such as 2A712, 2A713, 2A733, 2A753, 2A773, 2A731, 2A751, 2A771 translate to a process technician position in manufacturing.

Through training, veterans learn additional skills, including:
Repairing — Repairing machines or systems using the needed tools.
Equipment Maintenance — Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed.
Troubleshooting — Determining causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.

Impact

>> Qualified Candidates:

Francis Tuttle offers four manufacturing related career training programs, including Advanced Manufacturing, Computer Aided Drafting and Design, Precision Machining and Welding. For more information, please visit www.francistuttle.edu/getsills.

>> Better Pipeline:

Veterans are driven, hard-working, and have the ability to work well in teams. They enter the workforce with the soft skills that manufacturers are looking for, and often with the technical background manufacturers need.

>> Partners

There are over 500 manufacturers and 50 schools in the Get Skills to Work coalition.

