

Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology Employment Report

Don Pisula

“The AM/IST program helped me pass the [company’s entrance exam for the position of Maintenance Mechanic] and helped me get the job...Integrated Systems Technology opens the doors to employment possibilities that you might not otherwise have without the training.” (Don Pisula, 2004)

Don Pisula had been an unemployed tool and die repairperson for five months when he learned about a new advanced manufacturing training program for dislocated workers offered at Owens Community College (OCC) in Toledo, Ohio. This new program, entitled the Dislocated Workers’ Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology (AM/IST) Training Program, is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and is part of President Bush’s High Growth Job Training Initiative (HGJTI).

Pisula discovered the AM/IST training opportunity during a visit to the Wood County Job & Family Services office in nearby Bowling Green. After being briefed about this new training opportunity, Pisula decided not to waste any time and immediately enrolled in the program at OCC.

After completing his AM/IST training and with his new skills in hand, Pisula applied for a position as Maintenance Mechanic at IBC Wonder Bread in Northwood, Ohio. Soon after completing the entrance exam for this position, Pisula was asked by officials at IBC Wonder Bread to come in for an interview.

During the interview, company officials indicated to Pisula that they were very impressed with his level of knowledge, the information he had learned while participating in the AM/IST training program, and his performance on the company’s entrance exam for the position. And while Pisula had no prior experience as a maintenance technician, he was offered the position. “The AM/IST program helped me pass the test and helped me get the job,” reported Pisula.

Pisula joined the IBC Wonder Bread team on December 14, 2003. In his new job, he is responsible for repairing, maintaining and installing equipment for the company. Due to the “time -sensitive” nature of the bread industry, his job is a very important one. When a machine breaks down, he must use his skills to quickly repair the machine and get it back on line before the dough is ruined.

IBC Wonder Bread, headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, is the largest national wholesale baker and distributor of fresh delivered bread and snack cakes in the United States. The company employs 34,000 people at 63 bakeries nationwide.



What did Pisula find most helpful about the IST training program? “The electrical and mechanical portions of the training were the most helpful – in particular the pneumatics and chain drives of the mechanical portion, and all of the electrical [portion].”

Pisula highly recommends that other dislocated workers consider the IST training program regardless of their past experiences. As he explained, “IST opens the doors to employment possibilities that you might not otherwise have without the training.”



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