

Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology Employment Report



Harvey Overton

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Before being laid off from Carl Zeiss IMT, Inc. in the winter of 2004, Harvey Overton was employed as a Field Technician. Like most people who are laid off, Overton visited his local One-Stop Center, the Montgomery County ODJFS office, to inquire about unemployment benefits. During his visit, he was directed to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) department where he was told about various options for career training. After reviewing Overton’s manufacturing work history, the representative suggested he consider the new Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology (AM/IST) training program at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio.

Deciding to enroll, Overton began his AM/IST training on March 8, 2004, and completed the program on April 30, 2004. Having very positive comments about his experience, Overton explained, “The AM/IST training is a good program, and the college has excellent personnel. Joe Florence, the instructor, is doing a great job of leading the program and is very knowledgeable in both the electrical and mechanical areas.”

With his new skills in hand, Overton began applying for various positions, one of which was at the Target Distribution Center in West Jefferson,

Ohio. Overton was contacted for a phone interview and was asked to come in to complete some testing. After reviewing Overton’s test results and interview responses, the company representative contacted him and asked that he come in for a personal interview. During this interview, Overton discussed his recent training in Advanced Manufacturing at Sinclair Community College. The results from Overton’s testing activities indicated that he was knowledgeable in electrical and mechanical areas, both of which comprise the AM/IST training.

Prior to his AM/IST training, Overton had not had any exposure to mechanical systems and the ways in which they are integrated with electrical systems in the new high-tech manufacturing work environments. In his past experiences, he had worked with electrical systems by installing, verifying and calibrating CMM measuring equipment. He also performed troubleshooting and repairs on electrical equipment.

Target Distribution Center offered Overton a Mechanic position in July 2004. “IST training was instrumental in getting a job offer,” explained Overton. “I am extremely pleased with my new wage, which is higher than what I was making when I

became displaced. And I am using the mechanical skills that I learned in the AM/IST training. In particular, the pneumatics and fluid power modules of the training prepared me for my position as a mechanic,” said Overton.

In his new position, Overton is responsible for three areas of maintenance and repair including: building, conveyor systems and lift systems. “The AM/IST program is something that I would recommend to other dislocated workers. [New jobs use] this type of high-tech equipment and companies are looking for skilled workers who understand and can operate this equipment,” explained Overton. “This program is a great opportunity to get a good understanding of the high-tech maintenance field.”



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