

Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology Employment Report

Bob Bartley

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Bob Bartley was like most other Americans who have been displaced from their jobs. He believed he wouldn't have any difficulty finding another job. But, what he came to realize after seven months was that it wasn't going to be as easy as he thought.

With the realization that he had not received one job offer in his field in those seven months, Bartley decided to explore another field. He began his search for a new career by visiting the Wood County Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) website. He found information about a training program for a new career field that was in demand, specifically the Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology (AM/IST) program offered at Owens Community College (OCC) in Toledo, Ohio.

Bartley then talked with a representative from the Wood County ODJFS office and was referred to OCC to tour the AM/IST lab and make sure this was a program in which he was interested.

In August 2004, Bartley began the AM/IST training at OCC. He was diligent about attending class and focused on completing the program so that he could get a job in this new field as quickly as possible. His hard work paid off and he completed the training in December of 2004.

Prior to the training, Bartley was familiar with electronics, but he knew

nothing about PLCs, pneumatics or mechanics. The AM/IST training provided him with the opportunity to learn these new skills. "I learned a lot of tips and tricks from the instructors at OCC. I was very pleased with their knowledge and ability to help," noted Bartley.

After completing the program, Bartley received job leads via e-mail from the OCC job center. Approximately one month after finishing his training, he received a lead for an Industrial Maintenance Mechanic. He responded and requested that his resume be forwarded to the employer. He received a call from the employer within a few days inviting him to come in for an interview.

His interview was at Southeastern Container, a bottle supplier for Coca-Cola. Bartley was one of eight people to interview for this position, which had been open for six months. Bartley's training became useful during the aptitude test when he was able to answer questions that he knew only because of what he had learned during his AM/IST training.

Bartley received an offer from Southeastern Container later that day. This was the only job offer that he had received in the last year, so he was pleased that the training had paid off.

In Bartley's new position as an Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, he works a great deal with pneumatics and other mechanical equipment. He



also works with PLCs, which control everything in the plant. "They use the same Allen-Bradley equipment that I used in the AM/IST lab during my training," explained Bartley. There are approximately 13 people who work in the maintenance department, and only 3 of those people work with PLCs. Bartley is one of those three people, which is something he would not have been able to do had he not completed the AM/IST training at OCC.

When asked if he would recommend the program to other dislocated workers, he said yes. "I thought I was employable, but what I found out was that right now in the Toledo area, the unemployment rate is very high. It is extremely difficult to find a job, even one that is lower than what you are qualified for. The IST program gave me the skills in Advanced Manufacturing that are in demand. Prior to the training, I had not received any job offers. Shortly after the training, I received a job offer for a position in which I did not have any work experience," explained Bartley.



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