

TRIANGLE TECH GRADUATE UPDATES

Check out our graduates and their success.



Cooper Bomboy- Electrical Graduate

“I found my interest in electrical work during high school in the trade programs that were offered. After finishing high school I knew I wanted to further my education, but school really wasn’t my favorite thing in the world. After doing some research I found Triangle Tech, a 16-month program that gave me the opportunity to further my education and earn an Associates Degree Later, helping me land a job dealing with electrical. The thing that really drew me to Triangle Tech was that they focus on the skill you are trying to learn and not all that other stuff like history. Also you get an Associate Degree in just 16-months instead of 2 years, and boy do they go by fast! After completing the 16-month program i was lucky enough to get a job 15 minutes from my house at West Pharmaceutical. I am a Maintenance Technician making very good wages using things I learned from Triangle Tech like PLC, motor control, working with transformers, knowing the different parts of the motors, and even working with communication circuits for the speaker system on a daily basis. It’s crazy how much you learn in such a short time frame but putting in the work to achieve your goal and seeing the results in the end is the best thing you can invest your time and money in!”

Nicholas Poskus- RHVAC Graduate

RHVAC was my field of choice because I knew there would always be work in that field and it is a respectable trade. I selected Triangle Tech because it was a local school that taught a little bit of everything and included a lot of hands on training! Trying to grasp so many new skills in a short amount of time was a challenge for me, but it kept me motivated to work hard. What kept me motivated during school was knowing I would get the Associates in Specialized Technology Degree as well as receive an EPA Universal Certification which would be valuable to potential employers. Many hours of studying and hard work for 16-

months brought me to graduation and my goal. When I got out of school was able to get a job in the field that I went to school for and used what I learned. I achieved that goal when I was offered a position at Penn Hills School District even before I graduated. I currently work for Penn Hills School District as their HVAC/General Maintenance man, I am responsible for 3 schools and a sports facility. I travel the district all day going building to building answering different maintenance service calls and no two are ever the same. My position involves checking and working on all air handlers, boilers, roof top units, kitchen equipment, door locks, ice machines, hot water tanks, walk in coolers and freezers. I am able to use the hands-on skills and apply the theory, that I learned while at Triangle Tech in a practical way every day on the job. The advice I would offer to any new students would be to learn all you can. Don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions, if you don't understand something ask, because the instructors are more than willing to help you. My future plans are to keep learning everyday on the job because school is only part of it, you have to do it every day to understand and master.

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Alexander Laney - CADD Graduate

“I chose Triangle Tech because I liked the fact that it was only 16-months, less than a quarter of the price of a four-year school, all of the classes revolved around drafting, they do their best to help you find a job once graduated, and during my visit, the atmosphere felt like a great fit for



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me. But I knew that most of the responsibility to do well and be successful fell on me. Any school can be great at teaching, but it's the atmosphere and ones' determination that dictates how well the schooling works in their favor. I tried my hardest at Triangle Tech. Going to school every day, participating in class discussions, becoming a part of student council, studying hard. While at the time it seemed as if it were hard to concentrate day after day, all that hard work and determination led to me having a job the week after graduation. But not just any job, it was a job that I had spent the last 16-months training for. I know that the biggest reason why I got the job over some of the other potential employees was because of my transcripts showing that I did my absolute best day in and day out. But it would not have been possible without the reputation that Triangle Tech has for training their students to the very best of their ability to perform the jobs in the readily available and expanding market of trade jobs."

Grant Solomon - Welding Graduate

I heard there was a need for welders, I found the trade interesting and heard the salaries welders make were good so I enrolled in Triangle Tech because it had a good reputation and it was close to home. The math classes were tough and even starting to learn on how to weld was challenging, but I was motivated to push through because I knew there was a large need for welders and I would be able to find a stable career with a good salary. I had fun throughout my schooling because I learned a lot, not just about welding but the inspection and processes that came with it. The Triangle Tech Career Advisors helped me find a job with Shawcor Inspection Services. I started right after graduation and I've been here for a couple months now, inspecting welds. My position at Shawcor allows me to travel all around, so it's like a camping trip that pays! I love it, the people I work for are great, and I receive full benefits and a great

salary, when I became employed. I'm an assistant technician of radiography, for now I assist the technician until I become one myself. Most of my work is on pipelines taking x-rays of welds and seeing if there's any inclusions inside of them. My advice is not to just look into welding itself but also look at any other factors that involve welding, you learn fitting and inspecting, I obviously chose the inspection side but it has benefited me greatly. My goal after graduation was finding a career-based job with a good salary and good benefits as well, so far, I think my goals have been met. My future plans are to become a level two technician and in about five years I plan on going in for my CWI test to be a certified welding inspector.

Lesly Belizaire- Carpentry Graduate

I graduated high school and decided to go right to a local community college. I began taking business courses, but realized something was missing. I enjoyed school but really liked to work with my hands. My uncle owned a construction business and I would help him out from time to time. Once I realized that I needed a career that didn't involve sitting at a desk, I immediately began to look into other options to continue my education. Enrolling at Triangle Tech was an easy decision for me. Quality hands-on training and job placement assistance were the most important qualities I needed my school to have. Triangle Tech fit the bill. Working and attending school full-time was a challenge but I kept pushing forward. I was able to secure full-time employment at a local carpentry company a few weeks prior to my graduation. I am hoping to continue learning and want to advance with the company in the near future!

Wendy Binder - Electrical Graduate

I was working in the healthcare field, radiology specifically, and I needed a change. I was considering pursuing nursing and then found something different. Maintenance Electricity was my



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choice because I was an electrician in the military 20 years ago, and I thought, why not retrain and go back into that field. I was driving by Triangle Tech one day and knew it was a trade school, so I thought I would stop in and see what it was about. After speaking with the admissions representative about the PLC's and motor controls coursework I had a strong interest and knew it would be a fit. I am a single mom, I struggled during school without a paycheck and financial assistance, it was a lot of ramen noodle dinners and lunches. I made it through though and wow do I feel like I hit the lottery.

Throughout the 16th months my interest in the coursework and subjects kept me challenged and motivated, the instructors helped to keep pushing us through and continuously challenged us to do our best. After graduation, I had hoped to find a job with a good retirement package where I could support my family working with PLC's and Motor Controls. I have achieved that goal with the help of Triangle Tech that arranged a tour of US Steel, Pre-Employment Testing and even interviews at the school. I have secured a position as an Analytical Technician III (or a command center tech) where I utilize the information I was taught in 3rd and 4th term classes concentrating on the PLC's, Motor Controls, and Ladder Logic/Signal Diagrams. My advice for any new or current students is to find a job with something you enjoy doing, it is not just about the money (although I was finally able to buy a new car), "money isn't everything, although if you get a great paying job, loving what you are doing, it's a win-win".

Megan Block- CADD Graduate

In high school, I was an honor student who enjoyed being there more than home most times. The obstacles I had gone through as an adolescent were the reason I wanted an education I could afford and a degree I could use. I wanted a career that could give me financial stability and independence. This intent lead me to attend Triangle Tech's CADD program and I received more than I anticipated. Picking a career

choice wasn't too hard. I enjoyed CADD classes in high school, more so the architecture aspect, so that's what I chose. The hard part was figuring out financially how I was going to support myself while going to school. I worked two jobs that summer to save for an apartment and followed a plan to work as much as I studied. Once others started to see my actions taking place, they supported me ever since. The day I went for a class audit at Triangle Tech, I sat in the waiting room for a few minutes. There was a poster with an image of an aircraft carrier and it read "You could build this!" Looking at it, I knew I wasn't sure what I'd do with this education, but I knew I had made the right choice with my education. I had instructors that shared their own personal knowledge and experience in the CADD field. By always pushing me to be better and not just enough, they prepared me with the skills I would need in the drafting world. Four months before graduation, my career advisor forwarded the class an invite to Newport News Shipbuilding's hiring event in Virginia. (I didn't realize it right away, but it was the same company being advertised in the waiting room.) With an open mind, I decided to give it a shot and to my surprise I killed the interview. I got an offer letter and accepted the position as a Designer 1.

"Getting that job would not have been possible without the reputation that Triangle Tech has for training their students to the very best of their ability to perform the jobs in the readily available and expanding market of trade jobs."

Accepting meant I'd be leaving my home state and most of what I knew to be familiar, but I know have a career that fulfills my goals. I also get to use the skills I've gained and challenge them everyday! In the future, I plan to take advantage of the opportunities ahead of me and further my education in engineering and/or my business degree. As a person, you don't ever have to stop

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growing. Infact, my current supervisor says, (and it's true) to not ever hesitate on what you want; Hesitating may mean you won't ever do it. My advice for future students and current alumni, is to use your struggles to push you to your goals and accept that you can always learn. I didn't give myself much time to think about the decisions that brought me to where I am now, but I took those chances and still do. Triangle Tech rewarded me with career skills that I'll be able to utilize wherever I go. It is because of my education and the great effort put in that I have come so far.

William Young - RHVAC Graduate

RHVAC to me is a necessity for residential and commercial buildings and was the best career opportunity. Since HVAC was my chosen career path and Triangle Tech was local to my town with a great reputation, my decision to go there was easy. Besides that, it included an Associate in Specialized Technology Degree along with that training! Financially starting was difficult and Triangle Tech assisted me with a finance plan. I worked at night unloading trucks for UPS to help. During school I had to make sure I concentrated on academics to qualify for my AST Degree and learning the trade. My motivation was to carry my skills to Florida and not see snow again! To be the best in my trade and get started to prove myself to a company. I knew the skills I was being taught while at Triangle Tech where going to be the foundation of my career and they were. This journey I was on and the course work drove me and was exciting and I felt comfortable throughout the program. It has all made sense at the end for me. It has been 35 years since I graduated from Triangle Tech and I have worked in the trade that whole time. My work history includes enrolling in a Union Apprentice program in South Florida and graduating. Employment with Trane Company as an Industrial Chiller Mechanic and Building Automation Tech in Miami. This included servic-

ing large accounts including Professional sport facilities and high rises. I worked at Siemens as an Operation Supervisor for Mechanical and Building Automation in Miami. This included running business operations for Mechanical and Building Automation services. Currently I am with Trane as Area Service Manager for West Palm Beach Florida. My career is not new, but I hope hearing my journey helps gives students confidence. I have been in a management for years and the basics that you learn will guide you. The basic refrigeration cycle that I learned at Triangle Tech is still the same and will be forever.

Relationships are key! Build them while you are in school with your instructors and fellow students. This will carry over to your career and help you serve your customers. Spend the extra time and invest in yourself by studying. Strive to be better every day. It will pay off. Make Safety your number one priority. Use your PPE at all times for you and your Family. Continue enjoying getting up each morning by wanting to go to work. I love the HVAC trade and happy that my path started with Triangle Tech in Greensburg and will always be a friend.

William Shoop - Carpentry Graduate

I decided to pursue the Carpentry field because it was a field I have always been interested in and was looking forward to working in the field. I selected Triangle Tech because of their smaller class sizes and could commute and did not have to say in a strange place/area. Challenges I faced starting school and during school was I needed to work while going to school. Needed to make sure I got enough sleep and ate properly. I was motivated by being goal-ordinated. I was looking forward to working in the Carpentry field. Wanted to get into the roofing aspect of carpentry and met my goals. Started working at a dead-end job while going to school, then worked into a management position it wasn't what I wanted to do. The more I was in school the more I realized

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how the carpentry field was where I wanted to be. Acquired the position I was seeking and within two months of working on the job; I received my first pay increase. After, proving my carpentry skills acquired at Triangle Tech. Building pole structures, renovation, and working from foundation to roof systems. Utilizing my training from Triangle Tech in many ways from measuring to cutting; knowledge in how to frame, excavate, laying shingles, and being detailed oriented. Take notes; complete all homework; read chapters. Make sure you show up for classes, do not take time off excessively. Stay awake in class and pay attention this is your future you are investing. When working and going to school make sure school comes first. My future plans are working towards being a lead person in my job, buy a house and would like to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity to help others follow their dream. In the far extended future, move out west help rebuild from forest fires.

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Jacob Kern - Welding Graduate

I pursued the welding field because I was sick of not having something to build upon as a career. One day I had a conversation with a retired welder where he told me about the welding field, how it was an actual career, and the huge gap in the work force. After pondering on what he had said for a while I decided I wanted to pursue it. I got a job interview and weld test set up at a local manufacturing company. I promptly failed the weld test. After this happened, I realized I needed training if welding was going to be my livelihood. Shortly after that realization I started searching where I could go to receive training

that would be worthwhile. I did some research on trade schools and what opportunities were available. As I looked around Triangle Tech's program had popped up and I quickly became excited at what they offered. After touring the school and getting a closer look I made the decision to attend. Soon after starting school I discovered how difficult it was to work to make ends meet while attending school, the job I had previous to starting school wouldn't work with my new schedule so I got a job at one of the local gas stations in my town, and would help one of the faculty members after school as well. I was grateful for these opportunities but after a few months things were falling further and further behind. I needed a better source of income. Near the end of my first semester, I asked my instructor to help me prepare for a weld test that I had scheduled at a local manufacturer. Upon completing the interview and passing the weld test I was offered my first welding job building tractor trailer frames, they were willing to work with my school schedule and allow me to work part-time on the night shift. I was very excited to have this opportunity. This helped my family's and my situation immensely and would help me gain experience in the industry. However, I was now faced with the daily struggle of working late into the early morning, returning home to wake up only a few hours later to attend school during the day. It was character building time, and it taught me a lot, I was exhausted every day though. It was difficult at times to stay motivated while in school, I owe it to the guys I had in my class who offered great encouragements during these hard times as well as pushing one another to constantly improve and be better. I look back on those days with fondness. I also would think of my family and wanting to give us a better life, of attaining a degree that I could show to my potential employers, to sharpen my skills all that I could, and my love to burn some metal. After school I had wanted to build ships for the Navy,

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maybe pressure vessels, or weld for pharmaceutical companies. Whichever route I went I wanted the path that would teach me a lot, improve my skills, and had a good pay. Upon graduating I started working full-time at the tractor trailer manufacturer that I had been with for almost a year now, while I was in school. Funny enough this was the same manufacturer I had attempted to get hired on with before I started looking into trade school. My wife and I started looking at different states we would potentially want to move to and work in. We looked at work in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, or maybe elsewhere in Pennsylvania. All places offered many job openings as a welder. We decided Washington State held the life that we were looking for. I started applying to a variety of welding jobs in around the surrounding Seattle area. I received some responses asking if I was sure about this because I was coming from Pennsylvania. After assuring them, I secured 5 interviews and weld tests in Washington. I booked my plane ticket and started going back to Triangle Tech on my off day (Friday) to practice my welding skills. I flew out to Washington, completed my interviews, and tests, and was offered positions with each company. I accepted a position with an iron working company in Everett north of Seattle. They build buildings, stair cases, railings and ornamental steel. After starting my new position I was able to obtain another welding certification that would allow me to weld on structural steel jobs in the state of Washington. My day to day work life consists of completing weld call outs according to the blue prints, cutting and fitting assembly components together, forming plate, and sometimes polishing ornamental pieces. My advice to others would be to keep your mind open and listen to what others have to say. Don't settle for less but go out and make the opportunities a reality. During my time at Triangle Tech I saw a saying in one of the faculties office that rang true in my head. The saying goes "Don't wait for the

right opportunity, create it." Life will take you on an unexpected adventure sometimes.

"Something that sets Triangle Tech apart from any other school is the atmosphere. Everyone in the school knows you by name and treats everyone equally. The class sizes are small so that means more time with the instructors, and also your class gets pretty close with everyone."

Joshua Mills - Electrical Graduate

I was in my senior year of high school and still unsure what I wanted to do with my life. Then, one day a high school representative from Triangle Tech came into my English class and talked about what his school had to offer. I always had an interest in electricity, and when I found out that Triangle Tech had an electrician course, I decided to go take a tour of the school. I went in and took a look at all the courses and hands on training. I was impressed with the program they had. I enrolled two weeks later in the June class so I could get a job sooner. It took some getting used to because you were getting a lot of information at one time, but I kept with it and made it through all four terms. I am now employed at Paris Uniform Services as a Maintenance Electrician. The training that I have received at Triangle Tech made me confident enough that when something electrical goes wrong, I am able to go inside panels and troubleshoot without worries of getting injured. Something that sets Triangle Tech apart from any other school is the atmosphere. Everyone in the school knows you by name and treats everyone equally. The class sizes are small so that means more time with the instructors, and also your class gets pretty close with everyone. I met some amazing people in my class and we all stay in touch to this day.