

A Path to Success

By Alan Crnko

Lance Traylor was doing all the right things, graduating from high school, going to college and graduating. But then, something changed, he wanted something different. While working in between semesters in Industrial settings, he saw people, much like himself, working and being successful and knew he could do that as well. But where do you start and how do you get there?



Lance needed a career that would provide opportunities and chances for quick advancement. Enter the field of Process Technology. An Associate's Degree in PTECH could be obtained in 4 short semesters. Lance took the plunge.

Graduating in 2009 from South Central Louisiana Technical College in Reserve, LA, (a NAPTA endorsed program) he was on his way. Immediately, he was awarded an internship with Shell Oil – Offshore and after successful completion, found a full-time position with ExxonMobil as a Process Technician. Now making good money, Lance was presented with an opportunity to move closer to home. He applied and was accepted for a Tank Farm Operator Technician at Marathon Petroleum Company in Garyville, LA. Marathon is a corporate member of NAPTA.

Now at Marathon, Lance has used his degree, experience and motivation to move into an Environmental Professional position in the Environmental, Safety, and Security Department proving that mobility and opportunity come quickly to those with a PTEC degree.

Lance continues to ply his skills. Marathon is located in Garyville, LA and is very close to Lance's PTEC alma mater. Lance wanted to give back. He is now serving as an Adjunct Professor teaching a Quality Control class in the evening PTEC program.

I had a chance to sit down with Lance and ask him about some of the things that spurred him on his way to the success he is enjoying.

ALAN: Process Technology offers an exciting career path for many people. What attracted you to become a PTEC graduate?

LANCE: The intriguing thing about the PTEC field is how it is constantly changing. It has gone from a field of routine and reaction to one of brainwork and being proactive. It is also being updated to a more technologically advanced field.

ALAN: What were some of the duties that you were required to do when you first became a Process Technician?

LANCE: Common duties for a Process Technician include, making rounds, gauging tanks, catching samples, writing permits, light maintenance duties, keeping up with environmental standards, making sure that everyone is working safely, and simply looking out for your fellow workers.

ALAN: What is some advice you would give to someone considering this field?

LANCE: I would find an operator that you know and trust and pick their brain. It would be a good idea to ask a lot of questions. Enroll in a Process Technology program and ask those same questions to your instructors and advisors. Their answers will be different because everyone has a different perspective. Some students choose not to do an internship but I highly recommend it. It's a great way to get first-hand knowledge of the Process Technology field and to know if it is right for you.

Alan Crnko works for Marathon Petroleum Company. Marathon is a corporate member of the North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA.) Alan serves on the Committee Leadership Team for NAPTA. NAPTA promotes Process Technology education and serves as an accreditation body for educational institutions that offer Process Technology Degrees. South Central Louisiana Technical College in Reserve, LA is a NAPTA accredited program.