

TRIANGLE TECH GRADUATE UPDATES

Check out our graduates and their success.



Alexander Dennis- Welding Graduate

I decided to attend Triangle Tech because I wanted a profitable and stable career. I selected welding because it seemed fun and achievable to me. While I was attending Triangle Tech, my biggest challenge was balancing work and school. My advice for current Triangle Tech students is to keep going strong and to apply themselves. The hard work pays off in the long run.

I liked how personable the instructors and staff were at Triangle Tech. I also liked the amount of hands-on training offered here. I enjoyed the ASME SEC. IX Welding the best. Upon graduation and earning my degree, I wanted to obtain a good job and a skill that could never be taken from me.

I had a new job lined up after my graduation from Triangle Tech. Currently, I weld track vehicles at BAE Systems in York, PA. My future goals are to continue learning my trade and eventually become a CWI.

Evan Sander- Electrical Graduate

I chose the electrical program because it presented a mental as well as a physical challenge. The electrical side of the trades gave me an opportunity to work with my brain as much as with my body. I have also always had a fascination with electrical energy and how it is the backbone of the modern world.

I chose Triangle Tech because of the length of the program. A 16-month program stood out to me because I would get my education and be working well before those that attended a four-year program offered by other schools.

The main challenge I faced was balancing going to school and working full time. I had to make time to study and complete my assignments. Most of the time I was up at 6 am for school and didn't complete my day until 11 pm after I had finished my evening of work.

The largest motivation I had during school was knowing it would all be worth it. I understood right away that the program was not just treated as school, but as a simulation of how the working world would be when

I was finished. I also kept motivated by working a rather undesirable job knowing that I would not have to return to that grade of work or to the people that work there. My goals for after graduation were to find a good company to work for, and look for the opportunities to show my skills and move up in that company.

From the first semester, I knew this program was the right one for me. The learning curve was fairly steep at first. I maintained good study habits as well as used outside resources to get myself familiar with terms, code, and theory. Each semester presented a new set of challenges that built off what I learned in the previous semester. Through the entire course, I kept my goals for graduation in mind by achieving a 4.0. I knew that everything I learned was going to apply to when I started work.

I have gained a great deal of experience in my two years of experience at Tri-M. Notable achievements I have earned include: certification in Swagelock gas piping systems which are used for monitoring in the gas field, exothermic welding, and I am about to be sent to Corning's headquarters in North Carolina to receive intensive training in fiber optic systems and its applications. In two years, I have increased my salary by \$8.50 per hour and have received a company vehicle and a fuel card. I will be earning my journey person license in the next calendar year.

My duties at The Tri-M Group, LLC include, pulling, splicing, testing, and troubleshooting fiber optic cable, installing and testing security and automation systems including door access/controls, installing, maintaining, and mapping data systems, and managing small teams of people under the forepersons.

I use the training and skills in every aspect of my career. The most valuable skills I learned at Triangle Tech include, bending conduit, running and terminating wire, learning the code book so I know my work is acceptable, and keeping professionalism and neatness in my work.

The advice I can give to anyone considering or currently going to school at Triangle Tech is take your



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education seriously. The program is not just school, it is a simulation of the working world. Everything you learn and do in school is going to transfer directly to your career. You also need to keep an open mind when transferring to the working world. Before I graduated, I was determined never to work in the communications sector, but when an opportunity opened up in the company, I realized the benefit to me. I am now working primarily with low voltage and fiber optics systems.

My plans for the future is to first earn my journeyman license, expand on my education and transition into a supervisor's role, continue to learn, and to bid jobs. I am also considering pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Tom Perkins - Carpentry Graduate

Triangle Tech was my choice for a Carpentry and Construction Degree. They offered a wide range of study in the residential construction field and did so in a short period of time. I enjoyed floor framing the best because it epitomizes carpentry fundamentals. One of my biggest challenges was balancing the class schedule with other demands such as family and part-time work. The instructors were very good about making themselves available and were always open for answering questions.

Upon graduation, I started a construction company with a fellow graduate, White Falcon Construction in Allentown, PA. Triangle Tech provided us with a good foundation to execute many residential renovation projects. We are now looking to Triangle Tech for other graduates as the business grows.

My advice for future graduates is to consider that doing independent work and operating a company are two very different things. Be prepared and finish your degree. Some of my future goals are to stay in business, provide for my family, and make my School Director proud. I am thankful for my time at Triangle Tech as a student and grateful for the follow up support from the school in networking with current and future graduate students.

Michael Yaggi - RHVAC Graduate

My name is Michael Yaggi, and my path to success took me from a 23-year military career to a fulfilling role as an HVAC instructor at Triangle Tech. Here's a glimpse into my transformative journey.

After dedicating over two decades to military service and gaining experience at Wal-Mart Stores Inc., I found myself at a career crossroads. With an interest in HVAC, I decided to pursue it at Triangle Tech, where I earned my Associate Degree in Specialized Technology in the RHVAC program.

Starting the program, I was apprehensive about the advanced math required. Surprisingly, life experience became my ally, and I excelled. As the oldest student in my class, I naturally assumed the role of a mentor, guiding my classmates through coursework. I also employed as a student worker at Triangle Tech, gaining hands-on experience as an instructor's aid and maintenance assistant.

After graduation, I began assembling refrigeration units at Ice Qube Inc. Shortly after, I was recruited by L.W. Zelmor heating and cooling as an Installer and Service Technician, a role I embraced for three years. The pivotal shift came when I entered the commercial HVAC industry with DeLattre Corp., where I worked for four years, gaining expertise in commercial equipment. An opportunity arose to join Hranec Mechanical Contractors in order to assist them with the launch of a service department. Throughout my years of employment in the RHVAC field I was afforded the opportunity to continue my education, and I earned over 30 hours at Carrier University, completed 8 hours at Belimo University, and acquired my West Virginia HVAC license.

Triangle Tech recognized my achievements and after the interview, they extended me an instructor position. I accepted, and since then, I've not only shared my practical knowledge but also earned Certified Higher Education Professional Certificates in both In-Person Teaching and On-Line Teaching.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the faculty at the Greensburg School for equipping me with the



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technical knowledge to succeed as an instructor. My journey, from military service to HVAC mastery, reflects dedication, resilience, and a profound passion for continuous learning.

Greg Moser - Welding Graduate

I found out about Triangle Tech's Welding and Fabrication Degree Program through my work at JLG Industries (Oshkosh Corporation.) JLG offered to provide this opportunity to a select few employees, and I was interested because the Degree helps get me closer to my goal of getting a better paying position.

Triangle Tech's Instructors and the shop time are my favorite things about my time as a student at Triangle Tech in Chambersburg. I will say it was hard for me to get back in the groove of being in a classroom again (It has been several years since I last attended high school). New students in the program need to remember to stick with the program and work hard. It will pay off in the long run!

Currently I am an Associate Industrial Engineer at JLG Industries. I currently oversee the Weld School at my location. I received this promotion upon my completion of Triangle Tech in Chambersburg.

Caleb Tesner - Carpentry Graduate

I knew that I was interested in the Skilled Trades, but I had no idea where to begin. After doing some research, I discovered Triangle Tech and felt like it was the best fit for what I was looking for. I chose Carpentry because that degree program would offer me a well-rounded set of skills that would cover the entire new home building process. My post-graduation goal was to work in residential remodeling so that I could advance my skill set.

I have been employed by River's Construction for 6 months. Before I graduated, I had completed my first bathroom remodel for River's Construction! I am now leading small projects on my own. I currently work on, demolition, plumbing, electrical repairs, drywall, waterproofing, tile work, fixture installation and much, much more.

My favorite portions of the carpentry program are

advanced roof framing and cost estimation. Roof framing challenged me and allowed me to test my skill. Cost estimating helped me to grasp the full spectrum of what is needed to construct a building.

I'm continuing to build my knowledge in carpentry and remodeling. My future goal is to take what I have learned at Triangle Tech and in the field and open my own construction company.

Ted English - CADAM Graduate

My name is Ted English and I graduated from Triangle Tech in 2019 with an Associate Degree in CADAM. Triangle Tech was great at fast tracking me into the workforce. Also, it was great at teaching me the necessary skills I would need to be able to adapt quickly into a new working environment.

I first started out at Hitachi Rail STS in their drafting department and was there for two years. I loved all my coworkers and was good at what I was doing but I wanted a job with more opportunity for growth and challenge. After two years, I quit and started a new job at a company called LLI Engineering as an Electrical Drafter. I've loved working these past two and half years at LLI. The one thing I really enjoy is going out to see the job sites that I get to design and draw electrical systems for. It really helps to be able to see everything in person and be able to see lines on a computer screen translated into wires and panels in the real world.

Jeff Godfrey - RHVAC Graduate

I came to Triangle Tech when I needed a change in my life. I was in my thirties, had a CDL and was driving truck for a living, but I was interested in hands-on work. I had a family to support and worked part-time while attending classes at Triangle Tech.

The Instructors were great and very helpful (especially Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Yaggi) and the class size was small so I didn't feel the pressure that I had anticipated. Working part-time while in school benefited me by reinforcing what I was being taught in the classroom and I would recommend that other students work while attending Triangle Tech. Calfo Home Services hired me as an HVAC Installer right

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out of school. I've been employed there for about a year. One day I hope to open my own company doing installations and service work in HVAC.

Meredith Elvey - Welding Graduate

I decided to attend Triangle Tech because I wanted a degree in the skilled trades and I'd always had an interest in welding. I wanted to be able to commute from home every day and Triangle Tech in Chambersburg was closest to me. My biggest challenge through school was working a full-time job after class each day.

My favorite part of the program was 4th semester pipe welding. The environment here was something I liked. The fact that the school is small was positive for me because I could get additional help from the instructors if needed.

I got hired at BAE while still attending Triangle Tech. I went straight to work after graduation. My advice for current Triangle Tech students is to keep your head up and always put in the work. You are your only competition, and you can always get better.

In the future, I would like to become a CWI (after I have welded for a few years).

Kyra Welsh - Electrical Graduate

I chose to go to Triangle Tech because it is a good school. I chose the Maintenance Electricity program to advance in my current role as a Maintenance Technician for American Eagle Outfitters.

The challenges I faced while attending school were my finances and scheduling. I didn't have a day off unless there was no school, so fitting in all the homework and studying was difficult. There were a lot of long nights and early mornings. I stayed motivated during school by keeping my eye on the prize. I knew that completing this program would not only help me advance in my current roll but also open new doors for me. It was rough at first getting through the theory and cramming in all the knowledge, but once first semester was over it seemed like it went by in the blink of an eye. Everything built off of first semester and all of the pieces started to come together.

Since graduation, I became a licensed and insured electrical contractor and have advanced at American Eagle Outfitters. Also, I am part of a new team they built that will be handling the controls for all three distribution sites. I continue to learn every day. My duties in my position are to ensure that my building is operational at all times with minimal downtime for production. I have used several skills from school from all semesters in my current position. My future plans are to advance in automation and grow my business.

Dante Matthews - RHVAC Graduate

I often tell people Triangle Tech "figuratively saved my life". Triangle Tech gave me a sense of direction and purpose at a time in my life that seemed to lack forward movement. I was stuck in a dead-end job while what I craved was a career. A few friends had mentioned Triangle Tech as a possibility so I took a chance. I entered the RHVAC program and from day one it felt like home.

The instructors were top notch but more importantly they were invested. They were invested in the material and coursework because they believed in the field, and they were invested in me because they believed in me. In just 16-months short months later, that investment turned into employment at Allegheny Refrigeration Service Company before graduation. The skills and training I received at Triangle Tech not only gave me a leg up on other applicants but also made my transition easier from student to employee.

I turned that 16-months into 6 years at Allegheny. The training at the school was so diverse and complete that it allowed me to move on to the Housing Authority at City of Pittsburgh as an HVAC Tech/Engineer in 2013. After 10 years at HACP and 16 years in the field, I'm still using the education I received at Triangle Tech to learn and grow as I have accepted the position of Boiler Inspector for HSB Insurance Company. I don't know where I would be if wasn't for Triangle Tech and I recommend it to anyone.

Kolton Morgan - Welding Graduate

I decided to attend Triangle Tech in Chambersburg because my family encouraged me to enhance my

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welding abilities through receiving my Associate's Degree in Welding and Fabrication Technology. I first started welding with my Pap, he let me try it when I was young. I've loved welding ever since then. One of my biggest challenges while attending Triangle Tech was the commute. I had an hour drive (over two mountains) in the morning and the afternoon each day that I attended school.

The instructors and their helpfulness is the thing I liked best about attending Triangle Tech. Third term structural D11 class and fourth term pipe were my favorite areas of study in this program. My goal was to secure a good welding job prior to my graduation day, which I achieved. My advice to current students is to work hard and do your best each day.

As I mentioned, I achieved my goal of having a job offer prior to graduation. Currently I am a Welder at BAE Systems in York, PA. I work on ACVs (Amphibious Combat Vehicles) for the US Marine Corps. I definitely hit the ground running after my time here at Triangle Tech. My future goal is to start my own Excavating and Welding Business.

Zachary Zydyk - Electrical Graduate

I chose Triangle Tech in Bethlehem because it had the most accredited programs and opportunities in the area for a person like me who was looking to change careers. Out of all of the trades, I knew the least about Electrical and I wanted to further my knowledge. I wanted a challenge. I learned that I really loved it. Balancing a school/family/work life, while maintaining a High Honor Roll ranking and great attendance was challenging. I enjoyed learning from the instructors that worked in the field and their life experiences in different aspects of the job. My favorite part of my time at school was the comradery built with my fellow classmates.

I set a goal to finish each semester with High Honors and I did achieve that. I wanted to get the best position I could at a reputable company. I wanted a job that could further my career and provide a better life for my family. My position at Tri M is mainly comprised of building the equipment that the electrical work is mounted to. We then hook the electrical work

up, read blueprints and route the systems in the plans. We do nearly everything in a new build (from before the walls are up to completion of the project). I was able to take the knowledge given to me at school and use it for a good foundation. There is still a lot for me to learn, but I don't need as much training as someone who doesn't have my education. My future goal is to become a Foreman as soon as possible. I want to become a supervisor eventually and be the person in charge of decision making and running the job sites.

Overall, my time at Triangle Tech was rewarding and fulfilling. There were times when I doubted if I could continue to keep the high standard, I had set for myself. I always found a way. My support system was imperative to my success. My wife and kids drove me to do the best I could and they believed in me when I may not have. Changing careers was a huge step for me. I was nervous and scared and wasn't sure that I was making the right choices. I think it all worked out for the best in the end. I am in a better position now to grow than I was previously. I have knowledge that helps in my real life as well as in my own home projects. There are so many positive things that come from taking the leap to return to school and by doing your absolute best every day.