

INSIDE THE NUCOR TECHNICAL ACADEMY

BY AMANDA L. BLYTH



“The Nucor Technical Academy is a huge opportunity for me. Nucor brings in kids from all over the country, they pay for your housing and school, and also pay you for the hours that you are at work and are in class. I have learned a lot over the year I have been in this program; not just in the electrical field, but in teamwork and family aspects as well. The whole team is here to answer any questions I may have, and they are always looking out for my safety. I truly believe when I finish the three-year program that me and my new friends from across the country will be some of the best technicians in our field thanks to the education and opportunities that have been provided to us by one of the best companies in the world.”

Hunter Nichols, Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Inc.

As the age of its maintenance workers inched upward and the talent gap grew wider, Nucor could see it was facing a problem. It needed the right people with the right skills to fill its 50 openings in various Nucor mills across the U.S. In the summer of 2014, the company launched the Nucor Technical Academy to provide students with the education and training needed to help fill these positions.

Now in its second year, the Nucor Technical Academy has 26 students enrolled. Nucor recruits students from all over the country to enroll in its three-year program in Tuscaloosa, Ala., USA. Nucor partnered with Shelton State Community College, from which students receive an associate’s degree in applied science and electrical technology upon completion of the program. After carefully recruiting and selecting the right students, Nucor’s investment includes housing, books, tuition, and a paid wage while students are working at the mill and attending class. During the school term, a typical 40-hour week consists of around 15 hours in the

classroom and the remainder in the mill at Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa Inc. Over the summer, each student returns to work at the Nucor division that sponsored them. During this time they have the opportunity to work full-time with the team they hope to be part of once they are finished with the program. Working side by side with Nucor teammates, students learn about their trade as well as the Nucor culture. They are exposed to the electrical, mechanical and operations aspects of working in a steel mill.

When students have met all the requirements of completing the program, they are armed with hands-on, real-world experience. Upon graduation, students return to their “home” Nucor division, where they interview for entry-level maintenance positions.

The Nucor Technical Academy serves its students by providing them with a quality education and on-the-job training, while providing Nucor with highly qualified talent. For more information about the Nucor Technical Academy, visit www.nucor.com/careers/academy. ♦

“My experience in the Nucor Technical Academy has impacted my life in many ways. It has taught me a lot of life lessons and provided me great tools for the career I’m pursuing with Nucor Steel. I’ve learned a lot not only about electrical maintenance, but also a lot about the steel industry. I wish more young adults would pursue the steel industry because it seems as though the will to work with your hands and willingness to learn has declined over the years, especially with my generation. I’m blessed to say I was given this opportunity to meet friends, get on-the-job training and have a job lined up for me. The Nucor Technical Academy is truly the best thing to ever happen to me.”

Tyler Fuqua, Nucor Steel–Decatur LLC

