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Industrial Engineering Technicians

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For the subject of my research paper I chose the occupation of

Industrial Engineering Technology. This job is very similar to one I might

have since my major might be Industrial Technology. The industrial field

is one that I am very interested in and offers many different jobs to

choose from. A few of the jobs included in the industrial field are;

Industrial Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Industrial Distributor (sales),

and various management positions. All of these are demanding and important

careers, without such professionals businesses would be unable to produce

products necessary for the survival of both the company and the economy.

The industrial field is therefore a promising one because of its constant

need for someone to fill the jobs it includes.

Industrial engineering technologists must be able to do many things.

I will list a few of the requirements of an industrial engineering

technologist in the rest of this paragraph. Industrial engineering

technicians use the principles and theories of science, engineering, and

mathematics to solve problems in research and development, manufacturing,

sales, construction, and customer service. Many engineering technicians

assist engineers and scientists, in research and development. Others work

in production or inspection jobs. Industrial engineering technicians study

the efficient use of personnel, materials, and machines in factories,

stores, repair shops, and offices. They also prepare layouts of machinery

and equipment, plan the flow of work, make statistical studies, and analyze

production costs. Those in research and development build or set up

equipment, prepare and conduct experiments, calculate and record results,

and assist engineers in other ways. Those in manufacturing prepare

specifications for materials, devise or run tests to ensure product quality,

or study ways to improve efficiency.

Industrial engineering technicians generally work for manufacturing

companies and do most of their work with; electrical and electronic

machinery and equipment, transportation equipment, and industrial machinery

equipment. Industrial technicians must be able to work with charts ,

blueprints, layouts, graphs, diagrams and statistics.

My uncle Jim has a job very similar to that of an Industrial

Engineering Technologist. Jim works for a company named AMP Incorporated

which is located in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Jim has been working at

AMP for about four years and is the group leader of the second shift

production team. Jim's job is to make sure that production in the plant

runs smoothly, to repair machines, and to make sure that the other workers

are doing what is needed. Jim has been promoted several times within the

past few years and was originally hired by AMP as a temporary worker doing

hand assembly. Jim went to Forsyth technical college and majored in

Manufacturing Engineering Technology, which is a two year major. He went

back to school shortly after he first began working for AMP.

Jim said that he loves his job at AMP and enjoys the type of work

that he is doing. He also told me that all of his co-workers are treated

as equals and that they all work as a team. Each shift works in teams with

each person being responsible for something. The MET major that Jim took

is very similar to my major of Industrial Technology. Both of these majors

deal with manufacturing and industrial sciences, and it is very possible

that after graduating I will have a job very similar to my uncle's. The

job my uncle has is one that requires the understanding of materials and

processing. This type of knowledge is provided in an Industrial Technology

major.

Jim told me that the company is very good to its employees and

supports an open door policy throughout the different levels of management.

He seemed pleased with the benefits and medical coverage AMP provided,

which to me seemed excellent. The workers at the plant seemed to work well

together from what I saw during my visit. Each employee has their own

station and specific jobs that they are required to do. The plant produces

mostly electrical connectors used primarily in telephone applications,

although other work is done in the plant and other AMP facilities. The

parts that are produced are made of plastics, specially treated metals, and

various other chemicals and laminar composites. Jim told me that the plant

produces almost a billion of the more basic styles of connectors in a year.

The plant was very impressive and seemed to go on forever in each direction.

I felt as if anything could be made there because of all the technical

equipment I saw.

One of the companies I was able to learn about during career day

was Milliken & Company. Milliken is a very large textile company based in

the southern united states. Milliken employs many industrial professionals

in management and production capacities. I was informed that Milliken

provides cooperative education opportunities for college students majoring

in Industrial Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. I spoke with one of

the company representatives who told me that I would probably be able to do

co-op work for Miliken as an Industrial Technology major. Co-op experience

is very important in getting a good job because most companies want to

hire people with good work experience. With a company such as Miliken co-

op work is done in alternating semesters. This allows students to go to

school one semester and then apply what they have learned on the job while

earning money that can be used for tuition in later school semesters.

Examples of jobs I could do if employed by Miliken after graduation

are; Process Engineer and Production Manager. A Process Engineer plans and

updates current production lines and areas, and is involved with material

selection as well as production forecasting. A Production Manager is

responsible for keeping production at its highest efficiency, and working

with production and maintenance teams.

I am very interested in the industrial field and feel that I would

enjoy a job as an industrial professional. I enjoy working with and

learning about technical things such as electronic systems and machines. I

also enjoy science and the scientific method of explaining things. Most of

all I enjoy finding out how things work and what they do and I love to make

useful things no matter what they are.

A job in industry is a good one because of its many benefits and

flexibility. Jobs in industry are usually stable, (if one works for a good

company) have good benefits, offer high salaries, give good opportunities

for promotion, and allow for personal responsibility. Many industrial

companies provide employees with benefits such as; health care coverage,

pensions, stock sharing opportunities, paid vacations and sick time, double

pay overtime, and insurance plans. I hope that I will be able to secure a

job with a company such as AMP or Miliken soon after I graduate and begin

my career in industry.

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