

Robert Peglow

7/26/2017

Expanding Options for Employers and Workers through Earn and Learn Opportunities

Hi my name is Robert Peglow and my personal safety commitment is to always wear my safety glasses when necessary. The SKY Fame program was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. It was also a second chance. My story begins in 2014 when I graduated from high school. I didn't know what I wanted to do. The only thing I knew was that I was going to college. I didn't like school and I never have. I believe it is necessary and a great tool to obtain any career you would like, but it wasn't really for me. I went to college for one year after high school and didn't do so well. I wasn't focused or dedicated as much as I should have been and I basically failed out. I took a year off to rethink what I really wanted to do and get my head in the right place. In the spring of 2016 I decided I was ready to go back to college. I still didn't know for what but I knew I needed to. I also knew I was ready. I had grown up and matured. I now had a fiancé to think about instead of just myself.

I discovered the KYFAME program through a friend of mine and decided I would explore this option. I talked with some of the people that are associated with the program and decided this is for me. This is the opportunity I have been searching for. I started the program in the fall of 2016. I immediately discovered this wasn't an ordinary technical program. Most programs are two year programs where you earn a degree then go work in your field of study. In the KYFAME program, I was able to work three days a week as well as go to school the other two days. I have learned more than I could have possibly imagined both in work and school.

The reason why this program works so well is that everyone involved is fully dedicated, from the sponsoring companies to the professors and everyone in between. After being in the program for a year I can see that their sole purpose is to make this program succeed. The professors give out their personal emails and cellphone numbers at the beginning of class and tell us to call or email anytime if we need anything and they mean it. They are dedicated to our success and it shows. I have stayed after hours on multiple occasions with professors to study or ask questions. I am greeted with a smile every time and never rushed in our conversations.

There are many reasons this program has been such a blessing to me. I have had the opportunity to go to surrounding high schools and speak to students interested in the program. I have been able to develop my skills in numerous ways beyond my belief. I attended the national AMT conference and presented there as well. Coming into the program I would not have considered myself a very good public speaker nor did I like doing it. Now I am the first to volunteer for presentations and am happy to do them.

Robert Peglow

7/26/2017

One of the biggest benefits I have discovered is the work aspect of the program. We get to work alongside experienced technicians every day at work. We also have an experienced maintenance advisor to help develop our skills and answer any questions we have. As students, we all go through the same curriculum together. There have been a few nights a group of us have met together and worked on projects or study. This has been extremely helpful because we all have our own strengths and weaknesses.

At the beginning of my statement, I gave my personal safety commitment. The number one thing we have been taught is our safety. We are expected to share our safety commitment at the beginning of conversations or presentations. This shows how committed we are in everything that we do. It is also just one of the many things I have learned along this journey. Without this KYFAME, I can say I would not be where I am today. I found this program at a low point in my life and it has helped me turn my path around. I am now at a high point in my short life and I can truly say it is because of this KYFAME.

Speaking as student from a KY FAME chapter, I appreciate this committee's work on apprenticeship programs. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for your time.