

Steven Lucio

Wharton County Junior College
Wharton, Texas

Shell Oil
Houston, Texas

Steven Lucio started college as a general business major, but soon realized that his friends who had graduated were having trouble finding jobs. He changed his degree plan to Process Technology (PTEC™), “because several of my family members were working as process technicians and doing very well. Plus, I like the idea of being an operator where I can work in a unique team environment.”

He never considered applying for work without an associate degree. “A lot of my friends who worked at local plants were having trouble advancing in their fields. In most cases, I would have entered the work force more prepared than a person who worked the two years I was in school. I knew the PTEC degree would not only raise my salary but it would also give me a foundation to start my career.”

Program Director Wayne Stephens has stayed in touch with Steve since he was hired at Shell after a summer offshore internship with them. “Steven told us that when he took his employment test at Shell, he realized that most of the material had been covered in his college PTEC classes. He concluded that, though small, the Wharton County Junior College program had prepared him well. A couple of the Shell offshore training supervisors told me that they rated Steven as one of their best interns.”

Occasionally, Steve talks to new students at WCJC about working offshore. “Working a 14-day-on, 14-day-off schedule, we work 12 hours a day, and get at least two weeks off every month. The pay is good and the people on the platform are really supportive. I am continuously learning new skills and training that will help my career develop. The work, and training, is very demanding — so you have to be very motivated. I feel very strongly that anyone who goes through the PTEC program with ambition will succeed in any field. I feel fortunate to have received an education through PTEC, and to begin working for one of the leading companies in the petrochemical industry.”



There were a lot of personnel that participated in our Intern Program, but only the most qualified were offered positions. I truly feel that Steven had the professional advantage by having obtained a PTEC Degree. He fits well with our company and our offshore team.

~ Malcolm Allen Turner
VK/MP Asset Process Team Leader
Shell Oil