



WHAT ARE YOU UP FOR?

MY LIFE AS



A PROCESS TECHNICIAN: STEVE REYES

Steve Reyes never thought he'd work for a major employer like Dow. But that changed when he learned about the education and skills needed to become a process technician and about Dow's three-year, paid apprenticeship program that blends college courses with on-the-job training. When he completes the program, Steve will have his degree and be eligible for a full-time job. Just weeks after graduating from high school, Steve was launching his career in Houston's thriving petrochemical manufacturing industry.

The petrochemical manufacturing industry is the engine revving Houston's economy. It will generate 24,000 skilled positions over the next eight years. Industry companies including Dow put a high priority on safety with the goal that every employee, apprentice, or contractor returns home safely at the end of each day.

Already, the industry has made a difference for Steve, easing financial anxieties and opening doors for his family. "Watching me succeed in life is making them proud," he said.

REQUIREMENTS:

A career as a process technician requires an associate degree; an associate degree in process technology, chemistry, or engineering technology is preferred.

SALARY:

\$41,600 - \$62,400 (full time)

CAREER PATH:

High school, apprenticeship program with coursework at Brazosport College, and on-the-job training at one of Dow's operating units

ADVANCEMENT:

Senior process technician, operations activity coordinator, special projects coordinator, plant technical advisor, resource leader

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Enjoy creating solutions for complex problems. Gather information through observation. Possess a strong aptitude for mechanical operations. Have good interpersonal skills and enjoy working in a team. "The one thing I would really stress to the younger generation in high school is research the program, learn about it, and see if it's right for you," Steve said.

KEY CAREER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Process technicians safely operate pumps, compressors, reactors, and other plant equipment, and ensure environmental compliance. They monitor performance of plant equipment and process conditions for safety. They also read flow meters and temperature and pressure gauges, take routine readings on process variables, and test process streams as needed. In addition, they operate control room instrumentation systems and collect product samples for laboratory testing to ensure their quality and safety.