

SVCC Offers Path to M.C. Dean Apprenticeship

In February of this year, Southside Virginia Community College partnered with M.C. Dean to pilot an electrical apprenticeship program with 30 students. Today, the program has 80 students, including Adam Mcavoy of South Hill and Jacob Felhauer of Littleton.

Mcavoy and Felhauer attended electrical classes at SVCC's Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center in South Hill, Virginia as dual enrollment students (while they were still in high school), before starting the apprenticeship program with M.C. Dean.

"I knew I was interested in the trades but wasn't sure which one I would pursue," said Mcavoy. "SVCC's dual enrollment electrical class helped me realize that the electrical field was what I liked best and helped teach me the basic knowledge needed to start the apprenticeship program with M.C. Dean. I had heard of M.C. Dean from family members and know it's a great company to work for; I could definitely see myself in a higher-paying role with the company within the next five years," Mcavoy added.

Felhauer stated, "I've always enjoyed working with the electrical systems on my truck and boat, so when I started the dual enrollment electrical class at SVCC, it piqued my interest to pursue the electrical field more." Felhauer added, "My SVCC instructor mentioned the M.C. Dean apprenticeship program to me as I had never heard of the company. I'm so glad he did as I'm looking forward to what my future holds as a potential Master Electrician."

Through the program, M.C. Dean level one employees who are working their way through a four-year apprenticeship program also become SVCC students. The apprentices can earn college credit toward an Industrial Electrical Technician career studies certificate. They also have the option to apply credits toward an Industrial Technology degree.

The program features a National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) electrical curriculum. NCCER develops standardized construction and maintenance curriculum and assessments with portable credentials. These credentials are recorded in NCCER's Registry System, which allows organizations and companies to track the qualifications of their craft professionals.

David Nelson, Master Instructor with M.C. Dean said, "M.C. Dean is excited about this partnership and the opportunity to recruit local talent. We want these students to have the best training experience possible, replicating real-world applications."

M.C. Dean designs, builds, operates and maintains cyber-physical solutions for the nation's most recognizable mission-critical facilities, secure environments, complex infrastructure, and global enterprises. The company's capabilities include electrical, electronic security, telecommunications, life-safety, instrumentation and control, and command and control systems.

M.C. Dean is headquartered in Tysons, Virginia, and employs more than 3,700 professionals who engineer and deploy automated, secure, and resilient power and technology systems. The company has employees currently working at Microsoft's data center in Boydton, VA.

Anyone interested in starting the apprenticeship program should contact M.C. Dean at (703) 802-6231.



Photo Caption (From left to right):

SVCC students and M.C. Dean apprentices Adam Mcavoy of South Hill and Jacob Felhauer of Littleton.