

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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*(Pictured left to right): Cole McArdle, Dothan, Blake Tillery, Ashford, Blake Wood, Dothan, begin a four-year internship training program with the U.S. Corps of Engineers this summer. Industrial Systems Technology instructor Tony Greene (right) celebrates with his students.*

**WCC Students Selected for Corps of Engineers Internship**

Many people in the area do not know what Industrial Systems Technology (INT) is, but for three students at Wallace Community College, the program has opened the door for a great new career. Cole McArdle and Blake Wood of Dothan, and Blake Tillery of Ashford have been selected for a four-year internship with the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The program will lead to full-time employment with the Walter F. George Powerhouse on the Chattahoochee River.

The students elected to pursue the INT program for a change in career, or while working a full-time job. Wood returned to college in fall 2010 after receiving a bachelor's degree in business and finding no viable employment potential in the area. He attended day classes while working in the evening. McArdle and Tillery attended evening and online classes while working full time during the day. All three students hold 3.6+ grade point averages.

"These are excellent students and are beginning a career while completing their studies at Wallace," said Tony Greene, INT instructor. The students will work and train full time, making more than \$25 per hour and receiving full employee benefits while completing their degrees. As part of their training, the students will visit and work in several of the Corps sites in the southeast.

Greene discovered the potential opportunity for his students after connecting with a former classmate who works at the Corps facility. After arranging for a field trip to visit the powerhouse, Greene assisted interested students with preparing resumes and cover letters for the internship. The Corps chose 16 applicants from various college programs to interview for the four positions. Ten of those interviewed were from WCC.

"Industrial Systems Technology is an area that most people don't even know exists," Greene continued, "But any industry or large business that has equipment and facilities will have employees trained to troubleshoot, repair, and maintain that equipment. These are important members of the team of any business because when equipment goes down, money stops in the industrial arena."

Industrial systems technicians learn electrical and mechanical skills, including programmable logic controllers, hydraulics and pneumatics, electronics concepts, motor controls, and robotics. Students earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree in the five-semester program. Statewide, large numbers of industrial systems technicians are hired in the automotive manufacturing industry due to the robotics training in the program.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2010 median pay for technicians was \$23.64 per hour. Job opportunities are best for applicants with an associate degree in electronics, certification, and related experience.

For additional information about the Industrial Systems Technology Program contact Tony Greene at [tgreene@wallace.edu](mailto:tgreene@wallace.edu), or call 334-556-2603. Fall semester registration for classes is August 16-17. WCC admission applications are available online at [www.wallace.edu/enrollment](http://www.wallace.edu/enrollment). Students may begin the enrollment process early to save time.

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