

Chad Essink



Age: 21

Job Title: Molding Tool Room Intern for Square D, Lincoln.

College/Degree: UNL, Mechanical Engineering (in progress)

What does your company do? Design and manufacture residential and commercial circuit breakers.

What attracted you to the company? The location and flexible hours are great. It allows me to work 15-20 hours a week while still attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a full time student. Also, Square D has great reputation in Lincoln and I knew it would be an excellent learning opportunity for me.

Please list some of your duties: Design tooling repairs; Design vacuum systems; Create and update tooling prints; Translate and update tooling solid models; Organize and maintain spare tooling; Help troubleshoot mold complications; Design mold manifold systems; Implement ECN changes to the tooling level.

What are the best/most interesting things about your job? The most interesting thing about Square D is the people. I had no idea how many people I would communicate with on a daily basis from all levels in the company. I have made countless friends and most of them are twice my age. As far as duties are concerned, my favorite projects are definitely design work related. They give me a chance to put my education and imagination to work. That is what makes work fun and interesting for me.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job? The most rewarding thing about my job is to see the finished project. It is one thing to see the parts you design on the computer, but it is quite a sensation to see them in real life. Whether it is a simple test gage or a two ton mold it is a great feeling to see your design off the computer screen and into precision cut steel.

How did you decide on this career path? In sixth grade I took a character test that told me engineering would be a good career path for my personality. I have stuck with it ever since and love it.

What kind of school, classes, and training most prepared you with the necessary skills? Obviously my Mechanical Engineering classes have been a huge help. I have learned more in the last four years than I ever imagined possible. It was a tough road at times, but it was definitely worth the effort. Besides engineering classes, I would recommend taking classes in as many different computer aided drafting programs as possible. The more software packages you know the easier it will be for you to pick up a new one.

Do you make a good living? Currently I am only an intern making a respectable hourly wage, but when I do get my first full time salary position I feel I will be making a solid living that I could feel comfortable with.

What kind of technology do you use and interact with? One of the more impressive things I see at Square D is the sixty-one 150 to 350 ton inline injection presses in the molding department. Another is the end of arm robots which quickly swing into a mold and grab completed parts before the mold closes again to begin another cycle. I also interact with some very advanced software. I use ProEngineer on a daily basis; others used include ProMold, MoldFlow, and point cloud modeling.

What advice would you give to students who are undecided on a career choice? Be open and try different things. There is so much out there. If you like problem solving, technology, and don't mind a little math, Engineering would be an excellent career path. If you do choose Engineering, don't get discouraged at the beginning. Stick with it because it will all be worth the effort in the end.