



NIGEL L. CUPID

MILLWRIGHT INSTRUCTOR

OBJECTIVE

To certify as many students in the area of Millwright as possible. To improve the availability of local tradesmen. To give students the opportunity to obtain higher paying jobs!

EDUCATION

Two years at DeVry school of technology.
Certified Millwright.
Certified Craft Instructor.
Certified NCCER Master Trainer (National Center for Construction Education and Research)
Qualified Lift-truck Driver.

9/11/2020

Dear Reader:

A pleasant good day to all. I am Nigel Cupid presently the Millwright Instructor at the Career and Technical Education Center otherwise known as CTEC. I have been a member of the CTEC family for the past eight years. My story probably began at the Arthur A. Richards Jr. high school where I was first introduced to the concept of vocational classes. Honestly speaking I must admit that my vocational classes were my favorite part of the school day. I also looked forward to math and physical education, but there was something about the prospect of being able to build something that kept me engaged. During the time I attended Arthur A Richards Junior High School, students we were able to participate in several vocational courses which provided them with exposure that aided in selecting career paths during their high school years. Among our choices at the time were woodworking, electricity, agriculture and drafting.

My initial career path was Computer Information Systems, but circumstances and opportunities had me return home and become gainfully employed at the refinery for over 18 years. I started out as a Mechanic's Helper and grew through the ranks of a Millwright C, B, and A. My work ethic earned me a position as a Shop Expediter. My leadership skills afforded me a promotion to a Foreman leading a crew of 5 men. After a few months in that position an opportunity came up to promote me into a Maintenance Planner position. Eleven of my 18 plus years were served as a Maintenance Planner. In addition to my Planner position, I also had the opportunity to teach adults at CTEC on evenings using the NCCER Millwright curriculum.

During my employment in the Refinery I noticed how many positions were available in the Maintenance department and how few locals were qualified and certified to fill them. When Life took another turn with the closure of the refinery, an opportunity to become an impact player in this area arrived. I accepted an offer to once again teach a trade near and dear to me but this time to youths. Affording me the ability to continue to do something I love, mentor young adults and increase the local pool of qualified and certified Millwrights.

So, as the educator that I am, let me answer a question that is often asked. What exactly is a Millwright?

A millwright originally was a specialized carpenter who had working knowledge of drive shafts, bearings, gearing and mechanical belts. The "mill" in millwright refers to the genesis of the trade in building flour mills, sawmills, paper mills and fulling mills powered by water or wind. Several prominent early-modern civil engineers originally trained as millwrights.

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General duties

Millwrights are usually responsible for the unassembled equipment when it arrives at the job site. Using hoisting and moving equipment, they position the pieces that need to be assembled. Their job requires a thorough knowledge of the load bearing capabilities of the equipment they use as well as an understanding of blueprints and technical instructions. Millwrights must be able to read blueprints and schematic drawings to determine work procedures, to construct foundations for and to assemble, dismantle and overhaul machinery and equipment, using hand and power tools and to direct workers engaged in such endeavors. The use of lathes, milling machines and grinders may be required to make customized parts or repairs. In the course of work, millwrights are required to move, assemble and install machinery and equipment such as shafting, precision bearings, gear boxes, motors, mechanical clutches, conveyors, and tram rails, using hoists, pulleys, dollies, rollers, and trucks. In addition, a millwright may also perform all duties of general laborer, pipefitter, carpenter, and electrician. A millwright may also perform some of the duties of a welder, such as arc welding, MIG welding and oxyacetylene cutting.

Millwrights are also involved in routine tasks, such as lubrication of machinery, bearing replacement, seal replacement, cleaning of parts during an overhaul and preventative maintenance. Understanding of fluid mechanics (hydraulics and pneumatics), and all of the components involved in these processes, such as valves, cylinders, pumps and compressors.

Modern standards of practice for millwrights also require working within precise limits or standards of accuracy, at heights without fear; the use of logical step-by-step procedures in work; planning, solving problems and decision-making based on quantifiable information.

Millwrights are trained to work with a wide array of precision tools, such as Vernier calipers, micrometers, dial indicators, levels, gauge blocks, and optical and laser alignment tooling.

As the Department Chairperson for Building and Mechanical Trades my goal is to work with the Government as well as the private sector and perhaps we could foster a relationship where the students at CTEC are able to be gainfully employed after being certified and the center can become feeders to the skills and crafts needed in the Virgin Islands

Sincerely,

Nigel L. Cupid