



PRESS RELEASE

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Technicians and Engineers Wanted: Paper Industry Seeks Skilled Workers to Fill Over 3,000 Jobs Annually

Revitalized industry pursues technical talent with scholarships, high-tech working environment, bioenergy projects and competitive salaries -- from the factory floor to management positions

Jobs and money are of major concern in today's economy, but many students, engineers and technically proficient workers are unaware of the challenging and lucrative opportunities existing in the pulp and paper industry. While some inefficient paper production facilities have closed, the hundreds of mills in operation are highly automated, environmentally compliant, focused on innovative products and processes --- and in need of the right employees, according to TAPPI, the industry's leading association.

"With state-of-the-art automation and intelligent production systems, modern paper mills offer an exciting environment for engineers and skilled technicians to apply their expertise and education, as opposed to negative historical images many associate with this industry," said Larry Montague, TAPPI President. "Our industry offers the opportunity to work on cutting edge products and technologies, such as nanoscience, renewable biofuels and specialty products like bioreactive papers that detect and kill bacteria."

Despite providing a technology-oriented environment and well paying jobs, the paper industry faces the challenge of attracting new recruits as its work force ages. From 2007-2012, one-fifth of the North American paper industry's workforce is set to retire, leaving paper companies scrambling for more than 3,000 new employees each year that possess the right skill sets to work in an advanced manufacturing environment. Engineers, chemists, IT professionals and operators with education ranging from associate to graduate degrees are needed to fill the gap.

To entice top students, scholarships are available through associations like TAPPI and colleges and universities with pulp and paper programs – many of which cover full tuition. As high school students and professionals exploring career options discover more about the benefits of a wood fiber-based industry that can support bioenergy production and green alternatives like disposable paper cell phones, pursuing paper industry-related careers becomes an attractive option.

"As I grow more environmentally aware, I am intrigued by the possibilities that the pulp and paper industry offers, as paper is natural, renewable and presents the opportunity to go green," said Allison Littman, a Clemson University junior and recipient of the 2009 Douglas Barton Memorial Scholarship from TAPPI's Environmental Working Group. "In a world where harmful waste is a threat, paper's exemption holds significant promise for its future use."

TAPPI is the leading association for the worldwide pulp, paper, packaging and converting industries and co-publisher of *Paper360*°. Through information exchange, events, trusted content, and networking opportunities, TAPPI helps members elevate their performance by providing solutions that lead to better, faster, and more cost-effective ways of doing business. Visit www.tappi.org.

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