

Rick's story: Charged up for an electrician career



Rick Towle '14 has always been interested in electricity. He was the kind of kid who liked science and was fascinated by how things worked, and their many electrical components.

"I was pretty sure I wanted to be an electrician since it allows you to work in a lot of different areas," Towle says. When he enrolled in the associate degree program at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, he worked hard at it: While going to school during the day, he had jobs at night. "That wasn't easy, but totally worth it," he says.

Right after graduating, Towle got job offers from three highly regarded electrical contractors. He chose **Rivers Electrical Corporation**, which provides electrical, tel/data and fire alarm installation and service. The company takes pride in hiring many self-motivated, career-oriented BFIT graduates like Towle.

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"I do all kinds of commercial electrical work, like rewiring existing buildings, and sometimes taking down an old building and refitting it with the next company's needs," he says. "There's wiring lights, building fire alarms, wiring specific equipment, troubleshooting equipment. It's different work every day. I like that because it makes it more interesting. I haven't been bored yet."

Now 10 months into the job, Towle is enjoying the perks of working at a company that hires so many people like him. "It's nice to work with my friends," he says. "I don't necessarily see them on every job but I run into them and catch up. I find it's a very relaxing environment and it feels like a team, with everyone working together."

Looking ahead, Towle plans to earn his journeyman license. He's grateful for the skills that the associate degree gave him like communication, project management, and financial planning, which give him an edge when it comes to his long-term goal. "I'm pretty sure I'd like to open my own company some day, but we'll see what happens," he laughs. "I've learned a lot in a short time, but I really should master the trade first."