

## Steve's Story: Getting Connected to a Career



It didn't take long for Steven Colwell '14 to find a job after he graduated with an associate degree from BFIT's Biomedical Engineering Technology program. "I graduated on a Saturday and my first day of work was the following Wednesday," Colwell said. He had been hired full-time after completing an internship program at Tufts Medical Center, which was coordinated by the college's Career Services department.

Even though it was his first time working in the field, he felt prepared. "The faculty at Ben Franklin is so focused on getting you ready for the first day of work," Colwell said. In his role at the hospital, Colwell repaired sophisticated equipment and helped nurses and doctors better understand how the machines worked. He essentially acted as the liaison between the machine, its data, and the staff. "Doctors and nurses know how to interpret the numbers and what it means. It was my responsibility to make sure the equipment worked and explain how it measured this information," he said.

Until a few years ago, Colwell didn't think he'd someday work as a biomedical electronics technician. Colwell says his interest in electronics actually began with his passion for music. Since he was a teenager, Colwell played in bands. When gear and instruments broke down, he searched the internet for information on how to make the needed repairs.

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Before coming to BFIT, Colwell tried his hand at getting into the music industry without much luck. He also worked in the insurance and landscape industries. "These other fields didn't make me feel satisfied. They didn't make my brain work like electronics." Colwell realized he needed to go back to school. He

looked at electronics programs at Northeastern, MIT, and Wentworth, but couldn't commit to the cost or time needed to complete four years of education.

When he learned more about BFIT, it became clear it was a perfect fit. Colwell was impressed with the hands-on approach to higher education and realized that the biomedical program was exactly what he was looking for. "It included all the electronics plus I really wanted the face-to-face human interaction," Colwell said.

Today, he works as a Field Service Engineer at Beckman Coulter, an international company that designs and manufactures diagnostic and research equipment. In this role, he performs site visits throughout the Northeast to set-up and calibrate machines or make repairs for clients. "The job takes me all over the place," Colwell said. "I work with a major pharmaceutical company one day and then travel to work with a hospital the next day."

Demand for people with his skill-set is in high demand. The healthcare field continues to implement new technology, which has the power to improve patient care and save lives. It also requires more trained technicians to ensure equipment works accurately and effectively. Colwell sees plenty of opportunity for others in the field. "From the first interview call to the beginning of my training was only two weeks," Colwell said. "They needed more people. These opportunities are definitely out there."