

Chelsea Trottier

Hydrogen Energy Systems Control Engineer

Why did you decide to join Air Products?

Air Products provided me with great opportunities for career exploration and leadership right from the start. I wanted to be part of a company that was excited about developing new employees and committed to creating an inclusive and productive environment.

Why do you love working at Air Products? What is it that keeps you working at Air Products?

I love being in a group that's young and passionate about the work that we're doing. I have a lot of responsibility and can see how my role directly impacts our success.

Please describe your career with Air Products to date.

As a project engineer working at our Wichita, Kansas, facility, I was responsible for managing and driving productivity improvement projects. I created budgets and construction schedules and worked with all plant departments to design and install working systems. My biggest achievement was installing a cooling tower.

As a combustion lab engineer at corporate headquarters, I assisted in operating and maintaining our Clean Energy Lab and led maintenance projects to ensure the lab remained in safe working condition; I also assembled test set-ups for furnace firings and open air testing of burners.

As a process controls engineer – HyCO, I developed a Siemens program for a new off-gas facility in Houston, Texas. Though based at corporate headquarters, I traveled to the facility and provided field support for the assembly and communication of hardware (I/O modules, computers, processors, etc). I also collaborated with all HyCO engineering teams to start up and troubleshoot a new facility.

As a process control engineer – Hydrogen Energy Systems, I am responsible for the electrical design and PLC programming for equipment at hydrogen dispensing facilities for cars, forklifts and buses powered by fuel cells, e.g., compressors, dispensers, and other methods of equipment monitoring. I frequently travel, help start up new stations, and get to see a job through from start to finish.

How does what you do contribute to sustainability?

As our country moves towards the production of zero-emission vehicles, we need reliable infrastructure to successfully fuel these cars. My team provides both equipment and hydrogen for the end user; we are helping to grow the alternative energy market globally as well as the hydrogen market for Air Products.

What is the most intriguing/satisfying thing you've been involved in since you've been at Air Products?

I've been involved in a couple great volunteer activities within the company. I lead the Breakfast Buddies Program, where Air Products volunteers visit an elementary school every Wednesday morning to have breakfast with a kid who's struggling at home or in school. We help provide positive role models for them, and you can see the growth in the students throughout the year(s). Some of them have told us it's their favorite part of the week!

I've also been involved in the Lehigh Valley Dream Team for Air Products, a volunteer organization that reaches out to middle school and high school students and encourages them to go into manufacturing careers.

What career advice would you give to those just starting out in their engineering/IT careers?

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Don't be afraid to jump into something challenging. Engineering is a way of thinking. You won't know everything about your chosen field, but as long as you work hard, people are happy to guide you in the right direction and teach you what you need to know. You learn so much about your own strengths, weaknesses, and abilities when you embrace a difficult role.