

Brandi Dunham

Quality Management Systems Coordinator, Hayes Performance Systems, Inc.

In May of 2014, Brandi Dunham completed the Industrial Manufacturing Technician (IMT) Registered Apprenticeship and became the first person to receive the IMT Journey Worker card in the nation! When she started the IMT Apprenticeship in 2013, Brandi had spent only a few months as an Assembler at Hayes Performance Systems, Inc. in Mequon, Wisconsin. She quickly became a trailblazer for others at the company to enroll in the apprenticeship and advance in their career.

The skills that Brandi and others have gained as an IMT Apprentice are not only helping them advance up the career ladder in manufacturing, but they are helping the company perform more effectively in today's competitive lean manufacturing environment. "After working as an assembler and completing all of the IMT modules, I got my first promotion, which put me into the quality department," Brandi says.



Brandi, right, alongside current IMT Apprentices and fellow IMT Journey Worker, Tracey Papp, left.

"Once I graduated, I progressed to become the Quality Lead, so I learned a lot of skills that helped me move up into that role."

Brandi, a Milwaukee resident, did not imagine that her career would lead her to the manufacturing sector. She worked nine years as a bank teller before she found herself working with Nance at Hayes. "Nance took a chance on me. My first week I was super nervous, it was crazy. I had never used a tool gun in my life!" Never having worked in manufacturing before put Brandi at somewhat of a disadvantage, but because of her strong work ethic, she was quickly recommended through a joint labor-management process to take on the IMT Apprenticeship.

Since completing the IMT Apprenticeship, Brandi has received a series of promotions and wage increases. She now earns \$18.55 per hour, but this will soon increase when she receives her annual raise. Brandi is currently considering a return to school to study business management or strategy. She looks forward to investing in her career as well as her own personal growth.