

Q&A: Jason Lee, 2016 Technician Employee of the Year

Jason Lee, a Technician with [Duke Electrical Company, Inc.](#), in Amarillo, Texas, strives to surround himself with successful people and further his education by reading and researching the latest topics influencing his work.

Lee's dedication to continuing developing as a professional helped him become TEGG's Technician Employee of the Year during the 2017 Continuing Education Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Lee has been with Duke Electric Company, Inc., for 16 years. He credits his parents for teaching him to have a strong work ethic.

After two years of college, Lee went on to become an electrician's apprentice, and advanced as quickly as he could to become a journeyman and master.

"I was always taught no matter what you do, do it to the best of your ability," Lee said. "As soon as I was eligible for Journeyman I took the test, and as soon as I was eligible for Master I took the test. "

But Lee didn't settle with just passing his test to become a Master electrician. Instead, he continually strives to pursue more training, certifications and licensing he can, which made his coworkers and employers take notice.

"Over time, I began to get recognition as a leader, and that powered me to keep going," he said.

Q: *What made you interested in working in the field as a Technician?*

A: "I got involved in the electrical industry in high school. I tried ROTC and Agriculture as electives, but they weren't for me.

"I always enjoyed working with my hands and out of the many vocational choices I had, Electrical Trades, had a nice ring to it."



Robb Cohen Photography & Video

Jason Lee of Duke Electric Company in Amarillo, Texas, won the 2016 Technician Employee of the Year Award.

Q: *Technology is always changing and evolving. As a Technician, how do you stay ahead of the technological curve?*

A: “Experience only comes with time. What kind of experience you get over that time is vastly up to you.

“After mastering one skill, look to the next. Always read informational papers, and instruction manuals to further your knowledge, and have conversations as often as possible with those who came before you. Ask questions when in the presence of someone with knowledge you would like to possess, even if you have to get out of your comfort zone.

“Read every chance you get, experiment with different software packages, and take classes. This is how you stay up on technological advances in the industry.”

Q: *What is the most challenging part of your job and how do you overcome it?*

A: “Challenges are opportunities and I embrace them – the bigger the better, but none are too small. I’ve always enjoyed troubleshooting, so diagnostic and predictive testing and preventive maintenance just seemed to be right up my alley.

“I compare our industry to the medical industry. Electrical systems are the nervous system of our infrastructure. A general practitioner has basic knowledge of how it works, but you want to be a neurosurgeon to be most successful.

“When I learned that the testing and maintenance industry existed I began looking into it, and participating every chance I had. A lot of it seems like going through the motions and watching the clock tick but when you find a problem it’s worth it.”

Q: *What is the most rewarding part of your job?*

A: “When you solve a customer’s problems, save a company money, give someone a little more peace of mind – maybe you’ve saved a life – but at the very least you have contributed to their success and their family’s wellbeing. This is the most rewarding part of the job.”

Q: *What advice would you offer other Technicians to also be successful in their companies?*

A: “All you really need to do to be successful is surround yourself with likeminded people with similar goals and then try harder than those around you. If you ‘know your stuff,’ the rest comes naturally.”

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