



# TOU VANG



INNOVIZE | ST. PAUL, MN

## DUAL TRAINEE SUCCESS

MN DUAL TRAINING  
GRANT PROGRAM

QUALITY ASSURANCE  
TECHNICIAN

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Dual Training Grant awards up to \$150,000 in grants to employers utilizing dual-training models. The grant reimburses employers for costs associated with related instruction resulting in industry-recognized degrees, certificates, or credentials. The dual-training model pairs on-the-job training with formal related instruction to foster skilled employees and enhance company culture.

Dual trainees may benefit from up to \$6,000 a year from the Dual Training Grant. Dual trainees can participate in dual-training programs for up to four years through the grant.

- ✓ Proud first generation student in family to earn a degree
- ✓ Advanced career quickly and helps to support his family
- ✓ Earned an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Quality Technician Degree at Anoka Technical College

Tou Vang, 30, of Coon Rapids was skeptical about the Dual Training Grant at first, as the entire opportunity seemed too good to be true. “But everything was completely seamless,” said Tou. “From the moment I walked into the bookstore to get my materials - it was all covered.”

Tou began working at Innovize, a medical device manufacturing company in St. Paul, in spring 2020 as Quality Assurance Technician 1. During his interview process, he learned about the Dual Training Grant opportunity from Innovize to quickly advance his career.

“I am so thankful that I took full advantage of this opportunity,” said Tou, who started classes in the fall to earn his Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree and American Society of Quality (ASQ) Certification for a Quality Technician.

He completed the two-year program - attending classes during the week and worked at Innovize on the weekends. “Working on the weekend shifts while participating in the Dual Training Grant really helped me,” said Tou. “I was able to apply what I learned throughout the week immediately - and that’s when it all clicks.”

Tou added, “There is something special about learning all this theory and knowledge, then directly seeing it applied to your work - that’s a feeling you can only get with the Dual Training program - when you see all of this happening in real-time.” Tou was promoted to Quality Assurance Technician 2 and feels motivated to pursue additional certificates and credentials, including a Calibration Certificate that he is currently working toward.

Tou comes from a large family of nine siblings and helps to care for his mother at home. He said the Dual Training Grant has provided him with a successful career and nearly tuition-free education, and his family could not be more proud.