



BILLY KOR



BEDFORD INDUSTRIES, WORTHINGTON, MN

DUAL TRAINEE SUCCESS

MN DUAL TRAINING
GRANT PROGRAM

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR

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.

- ✓ Learn College Student Routine
- ✓ Balance Work, College and Family
- ✓ Graduate with Associate Degree

Billy Kor, 38, from Iona knew that after 16 years at Bedford Industries, 10 of those years in the maintenance department, that he needed to further his education in order to advance in his profession.

With guidance from the Bedford Human Resources department, encouragement from his supervisor and support from his family, Billy was able to attend Minnesota West Community and Technical College to complete his degree as a Mechatronics Technician.

“After graduating high school, I never had plans of furthering my education. However, I am very happy that I did complete the two-year Mechatronics program as it did allow me to advance my skills and my career. I was awarded the Equipment Maintenance Supervisor position after graduation,” said Billy.

Billy quickly discovered that having a routine was key to being successful. He was used to multitasking and having a busy lifestyle, but balancing college, work and family was a challenge. After establishing a new routine, Billy found the dual-training program to be very manageable.

Billy appreciated not having to navigate the financial burdens of pursuing a degree. The Minnesota Dual Training Grant was able to cover most of the costs at the college. Bedford Industries paid for any additional costs. Billy also enjoyed being able to apply lessons from the college classroom directly to the maintenance department floor.

With an increase in confidence, Billy has the following advice for high school graduates, “Go to college right out of high school to complete generals. It’s ok if you don’t know what you want to do right away, but it would be best to get those classes out of the way ... General education courses were harder for me than Mechatronics course.”