

COS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MEET CHUY!!

Chuy is a COS Alumni who completed the Industrial Maintenance Program in May of 2018. Chuy now works at Kaweah Health Medical Center as a Maintenance Technician. We did an interview with Chuy and here is what he had to say!

Tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Jesus Crisosto but everyone calls me Chuy. I am married and have a six-year-old son. I'm a Maintenance Technician at Kaweah Health Medical Center. I was born in Mexico came to the United States when I was 11 Years old, I was raised in a small Hispanic community called New London with four brothers. When I came to the US I did not know anyone, I completed elementary school and graduated high school in 2008. To be honest, I knew the odds were stacked against me.

I worked as a farm laborer/worker since I was a young child. Working summer breaks, weekends, I worked in the fields and packing houses as a part time job to help my parents out and take some of the weight off of their shoulders.

I am a first-generation college graduate, I'm very proud to say that. I encourage my brothers and other family members to obtain some type of higher education and/or training. I will always be there to guide and cheer them on every step of the way.

What inspired you to work in Industrial Maintenance?

I have always been a hands-on kind of guy. I enjoy fixing things and working with my hands. Growing up, due to lack of money I had to work on my own cars and let me tell you that YouTube saved me more often than not. But on a serious note, I've always enjoyed working with tools and tearing things apart so when I found out that COS offered an Industrial Maintenance program, I was thrilled!

Do you feel like you're making a difference in your job?

I do feel like I'm making a difference in my job, I take my job seriously. I know it's a maintenance position but I look at the bigger picture. I'm providing maintenance for a hospital, I know it may be far-fetched to think about, but when patients or family members come into the hospital it's during a time of need and or a tough time in their lives they don't want to see damaged or poorly maintained equipment; they want to know that their loved one is being taken care of. So yes, I take my job seriously and I give 120% effort every day for that reason.



Jesus "Chuy" Crisosto
Maintenance Technician
Kaweah Health Medical Center

What are some of the biggest challenges of your career?

The biggest challenge of my career is definitely the schedule, it is tough to work a graveyard shift and still make time for my family at home but it can be done with the help and support from my family, especially my wife. I try to make my days off with my family count.

The work load isn't bad, COS prepared me for the job and also I have coworkers and supervisors who are always willing to teach and lend a hand when needed. When I come across something I'm unfamiliar with I typically become drawn to it and want to learn more about it, like HVAC for example.

What do you like most about your career?

What I like most about my career is that I'm able to do hands on work. The atmosphere is good, coworkers are friendly and helpful. I enjoy going to work and I know that is sometimes rare to hear.

What did you enjoy most about your educational experience at College of the Sequoias?

What I enjoyed most was learning new skills and especially that I was able to make some friends through the program, as well having a great instructor that was very helpful and understanding with his students.

What were some of the most challenging experiences during your time as a student?

The most challenging experience for me would have to be that I was a full-time student and working full-time. I would attend class in the morning and then right after get ready to go to work in the evening. I would work from 3:30pm to 12:00am, get home to do homework and then wake up a few hours later and do it all over again. I was the only one at the time bringing in income for my family.

What is the best advice you would give to other students?

The best piece of advice I have for others looking into Industrial Maintenance is to never give up even when you feel like you're failing, keep pushing forward you will be done before you know it. The sacrifices that you're making will pay off in the end and surrounding yourself with great support system is very helpful. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel.



Chuy, Maintenance Technician
Kaweah Health Medical Center