



"I love anything that has a motor in it or deals with cars. Being a Diesel Technician isn't just a job I love, it's a career that enables me not to struggle financially and to give my boys the life they truly deserve."

Lucie Moore Diesel Technology

CAREER QUICK LOOK

Years in Field

Student, Wallace State Community College

City/State

Hanceville, AL.

School

Wallace State Community College (WSCC)
Diesel by Distance

Degree

A.S. Diesel Technology
expected 2023

Personal Time

Spending time with family, fishing, trail riding



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Getting Started

Lucie grew up working on vehicles. With several truck drivers in her family, her earliest memories are of fixing up dirt bikes and cars. She always wanted to be a mechanic - for as long as she can remember she has loved anything with a motor. But when she finished her GED, she chose a more traditional path and enrolled in a nursing program. She soon found it wasn't for her.

Education

When one of Lucie's colleagues enrolled in Wallace State's Diesel by Distance Program, it sparked her interest. After exploring the program she decided to enroll. Working as a Diesel Technician means Lucie will be doing what she enjoys most - figuring things out and fixing things! She will also earn a far better salary as a Diesel Technician.

Lucie has a very full life. She both works and attends school full time, all while she and her significant other raise their two sons, ages 7 and 8.

"The Diesel by Distance program works really well with my schedule. Even if I'm running late, I'm not really late, because most of the classes are online and they are taped so you can watch them at any time."

Lucie drives to Wallace State twice a week, after work, for the lab portion of the curriculum. Some students come once on the weekends - she prefers to come more often because it helps her to learn faster.

"I really appreciate the program's flexibility; it makes it easy to actually enjoy it without stressing out."

"We have a great teacher. He will spend one-on-one time with you if you don't understand something, until you do."

Lucie finds the virtual reality simulation homework helps with the labs too. Each student is given a headset to use at home. "It's really cool! I hadn't tried virtual reality before and it blew my mind. It's very realistic, you get hands-on experience at home on things like changing out a motor before you even come to the lab, it's very lifelike!"

www.wallacestate.edu/dieselbydistance

Advice to Women Considering This Career:

"Don't be scared to join the Diesel Technology Program because you're a woman. It's probably a lot different than you think, it's actually very fun and interesting! So just go for it!"



For more information

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Working with Male Students

Lucie is one of six female students in the Diesel program, so she is in class with mostly male students. She says they know a lot more than her because they've been working on trucks a lot longer. If she's having trouble with something they'll come over and help her - they are supportive.

Handling Heavy Equipment

Lucie says that working with diesel trucks is heavy work - even the men can't lift something like a flywheel on their own, so there are special tools and methods. And, of course, teamwork is key - classmates help each other out just as they would in a shop.

Career Ladder and Getting Hired

Lucie expects to do an apprenticeship while she is in the Diesel by Distance Program, learning while she earns. When she starts her first job as a Diesel Technician she can expect to see a significant pay increase from her current position and it will only go up from there. Master Diesel Technicians can make upwards of \$100,000. She's not concerned about getting hired - she knows some employers may not consider her but others have come to class and specifically said they want to hire women. With the extreme shortage of technicians she doesn't think she will have a problem finding a good position. She will graduate with an A.S. in Diesel Technology, on-the-job experience, and the opportunity to earn multiple industry certifications.



Work-Life Balance

Lucie's family is supportive of her career choice. Her significant other helps with the boys two nights a week while she is at the lab. Lucie doesn't have much free time but when she does, like this past holiday season, she likes to enjoy the outdoors with her family - going fishing and trail riding. In the long run, she knows that a better paid job will give her more family time. She won't have to miss her son's baseball and football games because she's working overtime just to pay the rent.

"I like coming home happy and showing my kids you can do anything you set your mind to."