

SERVICES FOR YOU SERVICIOS PARA USTED

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Still Going Strong After all These Years

By: Mike Medina, NFJP Client Service Agent



For 50+ years, Hancock Electric has been the hometown source for electrical needs for Hugoton, Kansas, its' surrounding communities, and most of southwest Kansas. They specialize in electrical services for Agriculture, Commercial, Residential, and Oil Fields.

Hancock Electric is truly an all service business and most electrical. Some of the services they provide in-

clude design/building electrical systems, install and remodel, retrofit, maintenance, upgrades, motor controls and automation.

Ervin Hancock started the business in 1965 on a part-time basis working out of his garage. In 1981, Ervin quit his full-time job working as a lineman for Pioneer Electric. He ran Hancock Electric full-time out of a building he built in 1978 at 1018 South Adams Street in Hugoton. Galen Hancock, his son, took over the family business in 2005.

Galen started working alongside his dad when he was in the seventh grade and worked there until going off to college. Attending Friends University, Galen acquired a degree in business and accounting. Although he was mentally applying all the things, he was learning to the electrical business back home, he never thought he would return to Hugoton to continue Hancock Electric.

In 2005, when Galen "officially" took ownership of the family business he purchased two buildings and moved across town to 513

West 1st Street, growing it into a thriving and multi-operational business. The original building at 1018 South Adams still belongs to "Erv" and is now known as "grandpa's museum" - covered top to bottom with old antiques, including his 1,000+ cast iron seat collection.



Finding What You Love to do Leads to Success 2

Welding Certification Pays Off 3

Hard Work and Focus Pays Off 4

"Hard Work Pays Off" 5

Finding What You Love to do Leads to Success

By Roberta Pianalto, NFJP Client Service Agent



Romano Burger

Romano Burger, who is a migrant worker from south-west Kansas, was born in Africa. His mom passed away when he was a baby. His dad made the decision to move to the United States due to the family's personal hardships and family's unlivable circumstances in Africa. The decision was made to move to the United States where they knew no one. They met a person in Chicago who told his dad about jobs with Seaboard Foods. After several moves, they ended up in south-west Kansas which is where his father decided to plant his feet.

When Romano was in high school, he started working the harvest to help with the family finances. He always knew as soon as school came to an end he would begin his harvest journey. After doing this for several years, he found out about the John Deere Technology training in Garden City. He has always enjoyed mechanics and decided to pursue the mechanic path for his career.

Romano worked very hard to get accepted into the John Deere Program at Garden City. However, he was worried about how to pay for all of his expenses. When he met SER Corporations Client Service Agent, Roberta Pianalto, Roberta interviewed him and found he qualified for the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). Romano provided all of his financial documents including proof of citizenship to demonstrate his status.

As a result of being eligible for the NFJP, SER Corporation was able to help him with tuition assistance, job training skills and career services. The training was tough for Romano but he worked very hard studying and ended up on the president's honor roll.

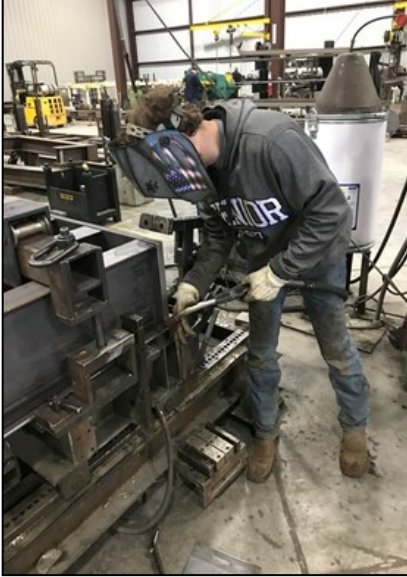
Romano was very appreciative for the help SER Corporation assisted him with the training. He shared that one time he was struggling financially and didn't know how he would pay his bills. The tuition assistance from SER came through and he was able to pay his bills.

Two weeks after his training ended he began an internship program with American Implement in Hugoton. American Implement agreed to hire him permantely and said the following, "Romano is one of the hardest working employees we have ever had and he always has a positive attitude. This attitude creates a very positive atmosphere for the entire shop".

Romano thanks SER for its' help with getting him through the training classes. Not only did he appreciate the tuition assistance but he valued the extra support and encouragement from Roberta. After his graduation ceremony Romano said, "I have finally found what I love to do and the only way to do great work is to love what you do."

Welding Certification Pays Off

By: Henry Coronado, NFJP Client Service Agent



Justin Petty

Justin Petty grew up in the small southeastern town of St. Paul, Kansas; population 600 residents. Justin worked in farming for many years performing general labor for a local farmer. This included caring for cattle, feeding, and fence work. He also learned how to drive and operate most farm equipment as well as heavy equipment.

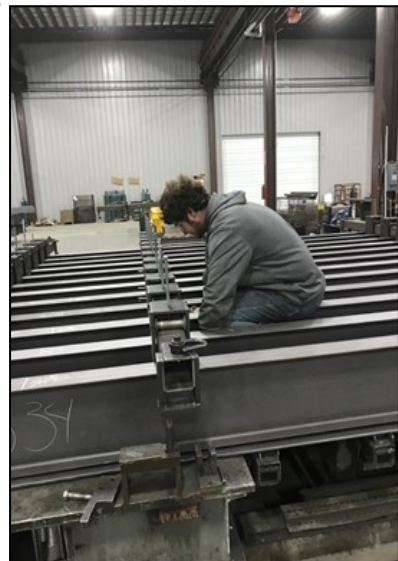
Justin always wanted to become a welder, so after high school he enrolled at Neosho County Community College (NCCC) to obtain a welding certificate. The welding program at NCCC was chosen by Justin because he saw its potential to enhance his future of making a much higher salary.

While at NCCC, Justin learned of SER Corporation, National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) from his instructor Bobbie Forrest.

Mr. Forrest contacted Henry Coronado, the SER, Client Service Agent (CSA), to come speak to his class about the NFJP. After the presentation Justin approached Mr. Coronado to set up an appointment to conduct an initial eligibility interview. Justin qualified for the NFJP and received some financial assistance to help cover tuition costs.

While working on the farm, Justin was making \$8.00 per hour. After receiving his welding certification from NCCC, Justin quickly received a job offer from Cardinal Scale in Webb City, Missouri. The SER CSA contacted John Jameson, Director of Human Resources at Cardinal Scale to discuss the On-The-Job Training (OJT) program which reimburses the employer up to 50% of the participants wages. Mr. Jameson agreed to enter into an OJT contract. Justin began earning \$15.00 per hour along with overtime hours on a weekly basis.

Ten months after Justin accepted the position at Cardinal Scale, the SER CSA spoke with Travis Keeton, Justin's immediate supervisor. Mr. Keeton said that, "Justin shows up every day ready to work and is a hard worker. He is highly motivated and took it upon himself to inquire if he could learn how to use other machines. He is a great young man, and some of his best assets are great attitude and tremendous work ethic."



Justin Petty

Hard Work and Focus Pays Off

By: Sarah Guardado, NFJP Client Service Agent



Todd Ens

Todd Ens has lived in Paulin, Kansas for all his life. Involved in sports throughout middle school and high school he loved playing football, basketball and baseball. During one of his summer breaks when in high school Todd job shadowed an electrician learning to wire cables. He liked the job and thought he could be an electrician someday. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Hutchinson Community College thinking they had an electrical program. To his surprise there was none so he decided upon the automation program.

I met Todd at the college in Hutchinson after giving a presentation to his class about the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). He was interested in talking with me as he felt he might qualify and the program could

help pay for his training. When we met, Todd was working part time at a fast food chain making \$7.50 per hour with no benefits. Over the weekends he continued to help his parents on the farm taking care of cattle. During the winter he helped to prepare the cattle for pasture and harvest crops every season.

Attending school full-time, working at a chain restaurant during the week and then the weekends on the family farm offered few breaks. His daily routine was to rise early in the mornings and staying up late at night to focus on his studies.

The money he earned went to pay for his tuition, room and board and other expenses. Todd received help from a Pell grant and took on a Stafford loan as well. Yet, this still wasn't enough to pay for his expenses and the rest came out of his own pocket.

Todd ended up sticking with the program and graduated in May with an associate degree and a certificate in automation. Soon after he found employment at Kaza Companies in Salina. His employer was interested in the NFJP On-the-Job Training (OJT) program and I was able to sign an OJT contract which reimbursed the employer 50% of Todd's wages.

Todd is very excited because he went from making \$7.50 an hour to \$21.63 per hour almost triple the amount he was making before graduating college. He is doing something he enjoys and is receiving benefits as well. Todd had this to say about the program, "I thank SER Corporation and the NFJP program for all the help. It was a tough time because money was tight since I could only work part time. I was very happy to find out I qualified for the NFJP. They really helped me a lot because I had limited income." Todd received tuition assistance through the NFJP as well as help with transportation.

“Hard Work Pays Off”

By: Vicki Needham, NFJP Client Service Agent



Remington Johnson

Remington Johnson grew up in a small rural town located on the Kansas/Nebraska border. He worked harvesting hay and on an alfalfa farm. When the hay and alfalfa were ready to be harvested, he worked very long hours in the hot Kansas summer to get it cut and picked. Remington also drove the grain cart and the trucks to the grain elevator during the fall harvest. Then, he would work with cattle and help with calving season. This meant juggling his schedule and working long hours to be able to fulfill the needs of all his employers. Even though he worked three jobs his income was still below the poverty level. These were long hours late into the night requiring him to work in all sorts of weather including ice storms and blizzards.

Remington had a dream of becoming a Diesel Technician. He wanted to have one job that would cover the bills and provide him benefits. So, he decided to enroll into the Diesel Technology Program at Highland Community College. During this time, he worked three part-time jobs while attending school but was struggling financially.

I met Remington after a presentation at the school. An intake was completed, and he was determined eligible for the National Farmworker Jobs Program. SER Corporation was able to assist him with some tuition which enabled him to work less and concentrate on his schooling.



Remington Johnson



Remington Johnson

After Remington graduated from school, he landed a full-time job as a Diesel Technician. He finally had a job that would cover his bills and offered fringe benefits. During his first year of employment he is expected to earn just over \$20,000 more than what he was earning at all three farm jobs.

Remington had this to say, “The SER program has been such a great help with paying for part of my tuition. They also helped me with making sure that I found a job and keeping in touch with me to make sure I was happy with the job I am at! I’m loving every minute of my job. Thanks so much for everything you guys do for me. Much appreciated!”

Remington has been an absolute joy to work with and is always striving to do his job better. I look forward to hearing about all his successes as we go through the rest of his follow-ups.



**1020 N Main, Suite D
Wichita, KS 67203**

Phone: (316)264-5372

Fax: (316)264-0194

E-mail: receptionist@sercorp.com

www.sercorp.com

SER BOARD MEMBERS

**Bill Ellison, Senator Paul Feleciano,
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