



# career & education

## Things to consider before making a career change

When men and women find themselves out of work or dissatisfied with their employment, changing careers represents greener pastures and a new beginning. Many people who have successfully changed careers admit the change did them good. But individuals considering a career change should consider a variety of factors before making such a significant decision.

### Finances

Those with significant financial flexibility may not need to weigh finances too heavily when considering a career change. Most people, however, need to determine if they can afford a career change. Men and women with considerable professional experience might find that their past experiences don't translate to their new desired field of work. In such instances, people should expect to take substantial pay cuts. Those who can afford pay cuts might seamlessly transition to a new career, while those who can't afford



**Professionals considering a career change should research their options and prospects to help make a more informed decision.**

to earn less money may find themselves deeply regretting their decisions. Potential earnings should not be the only factor to consider, but don't ignore certain financial realities, either.

### Career or Company?

A person unhappy with his or her current position might mistake feelings about the company with feelings about the career field

itself. If you like your work but feel held back by your company, then you might be better suited to finding new employment within your field instead of switching fields entirely. Thanks to an economy that has struggled considerably over the last half decade, many companies have asked more of their existing employees, leading to employee burnout and dissatisfaction. If your

dissatisfaction stems more from the company, be it minimal advancement opportunities or lack of employee appreciation, than from your actual work, then you likely don't need to change careers but merely companies.

### Prospects

Career prospects are another thing to consider before making a career change. The job market has never fully recovered from the recession that began in 2007, and many experienced professionals have been out of work for several years. If your desired field of work is not thriving, then

your prospects of finding gainful, rewarding employment might be rather slim. Of course, the economy can still recover down the road and that recovery might open up a wealth of attractive opportunities. But switching careers to a field of work that is struggling financially might not be worth the gamble.

### Qualifications

It's important to consider the necessary qualifications before changing careers. Some careers only require experience, and your experience in your current field might easily translate into a

new line of work. Other careers, however, might have certain requirements with regard to education. In such instances, you might have to go back to school. Your willingness to learn new skills and possibly return to school should weigh heavily in your decision to change careers or to stay put.

The decision to change careers is one that individuals make every day. But before that decision is reached, a careful consideration of a host of factors is necessary to ensure the decision is the right one.



Twenty-eight students from seven area school districts spent two weeks this past June participating in RTEC's 2015 Manufacturing Academy. During that time, they acquired welding and machining skills, toured local manufacturers and completed hands-on group projects.

## RTEC Offers Career & Technical Education Learning Opportunities Throughout Year!

RTEC sponsors a variety of events throughout the year to offer career exploration and skills training opportunities for youth. We encourage you to check out these upcoming events. Then watch for details on 2016 summer academies!

### • Friday CTE Academy: Spring 2016 Semester

Dual credit Welding and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) courses for juniors and seniors enrolled in Avon, Bon Homme, Gayville-Volin and Irene-Wakonda school districts. Classes held at RTEC on Fridays. Contact your school counselor for details.

### • RTEC Career Expo: April 27, 2016

A one-day event for middle school and high school students from across the region to visit more than three dozen booths packed with hands-on activities and demonstrations as well as educational opportunities and career information. Watch for details!

*Remember RTEC offers skill-building courses for parents, too!*



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Retaining our youth is a goal for many of the manufacturers in Yankton. There are a lot of opportunities in our community. For someone possessing the three A's (Attitude, Aptitude and Appetite) Applied has a great career opportunity available. Starting as a CNC Loader level 2, an employee can learn the fundamentals of our process with additional internal training they can then advance to a CNC Loader level 1 or a Tool Changer. From there they could receive additional internal training as well as some external education, paid for by Applied, they can then move up to a Machinist and possibly programming could be in their future as well. The CNC Loader position can create a path that can provide developmental and financial growth.

### Career Opportunity with Applied Engineering

**CN Loader Level II:** A successful candidate must be able to efficiently and effectively load material on an automated pallet system feeding CNC machining work centers. This individual must also be able to use and understand quality measuring devices. As part of the line team, this person will actively engage in helping the line make continuous improvements and meet set goals.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- \* Responsible for efficiently completing loading operations per work instructions.
- \* Plans and executes to the machining dispatch list established by production control.
- Actively engages in continuous improvement for processes, looks at problems as opportunities.
- \* Keeps work area neat and clean.
- \* Checks product against print to insure compliance with set dimensions and tolerances.
- \* Maintain multiple machines running at the same time.
- \* Assists in the documentation of non-conformance issues.
- \* Works as a team player and communicates well with colleagues from all shifts.

#### Skills and Specifications:

- \* Must be a good communicator.
- \* Enthusiastic, cooperative, and positive attitude.
- \* Must be able to grasp modern technology.
- \* Embraces and accepts change.
- \* Ability to read and understand blueprints.
- \* High degree of initiative and self motivation.
- \* Must be able to follow processes and procedures.

For more information on the position or to receive an electronic application, e-mail [Bridget.Benson@appliedeng.com](mailto:Bridget.Benson@appliedeng.com), No Phone calls, please

Applied offers competitive wages and benefits including: Flexible Hours, Holiday Pay, Medical, Dental, Sick Leave, Vacation, STD, LTD, Vision, 401(k) with match, Bonus Program

*Post-offer drug screen and background checks are required  
Applied Engineering is an Equal Opportunity Employer*