

# Hear From our GRAD Graduates



## **Micah Sperling, Ethylene Production Engineer - NCP Project**

During my GRAD program rotation I was a Field Support Engineer, an Operations Engineer for NAO/PAO; and an Operations Engineer for the Ethylene Unit (EU-1592). What I found to be most valuable was the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with multiple process units (Ethylene, NAO, and PAO).

I was exposed to day-to-day process unit operation, which allowed for more in-depth knowledge of how to troubleshoot issues. I also learned how to effectively communicate with Operators and Operations Personnel. This experience afforded me many opportunities to lead meetings and team efforts, which increased my leadership and facilitation skills.

Without the GRAD program, it would have been more difficult for me to move into an Operations Engineer role with only one year of experience. I was also able to gain hands-on experience in three different jobs and to gain experience on three different process units — all within two years.

Overall, the GRAD program helped to expand on things I learned in college, taught me how to better troubleshoot problems in the plant, and reinforced the importance of clear communication.



## **Brooks Perry, Plastics Production Engineer - NCP**

My GRAD program rotation included Field Support for the Normal Alpha Olefins facilities, as well as Maintenance Group Support for the company's Olefins units.

The GRAD program has given me so much invaluable technical knowledge - from unit operation and business initiatives, to equipment design, reliability, and optimization. I feel I'm definitely more rounded as a professional thanks to this program.

There are not many jobs where you are given the opportunity to see different departments or facilities as quickly as the GRAD program encourages. When I first started with Chevron Phillips Chemical, I hadn't established a career path. After seeing the interaction between departments, I have grown keen to manufacturing, and even have interests in the business. I might not have realized this until much later in my career without the GRAD program's opportunities.



## **Matt Ford, Polymers Production Engineer - NCP**

My GRAD program experiences included stints as a Synthesis Unit Process Engineer, a Unit 5 Process Engineer, and a Polyethylene Unit Production Engineer. I really enjoyed my time in the GRAD Program because I was allowed to participate immediately in daily plant operations. I was also able to work on the first commercialized run for a new product, assisted with first test run of aqueous/hydrocarbon phase separation additive, participated in design of plant upgrades and improvement projects, and managed small projects from design through installation for plant improvements/upgrades - all within my two years with the company.

In addition to plant operations, working in the Process Group as plant support increased my knowledge of the company's, internal engineering, design, and project implementation guidelines. Working with contractors and customers during troubleshooting and construction phases increased my understanding of the "non-operations" plant functions and diversified my knowledge of the subjects surrounding polymer production and processing.

Overall the GRAD Program has helped me move into positions that have aligned with my future career plans, including my upcoming overseas assignment.

