Walter Parks attended Big Bend Community College after spending 17 years in an industry that is phasing out. Walter holds bachelor degrees in both Chemistry and Biology from Missouri State University. He previously worked as an Environmental Chemist for the EPA. When he started questioning his future he decided it was time for a career change. He felt his best option was to merge his knowledge and enthusiasm for electronics with a high demand industry.

His decision led him to Big Bend in pursuit of becoming an electrician. Walter knew the electrical technology industry was in high demand for apprentices. Currently, the majority of the journeyman wiremen workforce will retire within the next 10 years. Walter attended two quarters of the Industrial Electrical Technology (IET) program and then tested for the IBEW Union Apprenticeship Test. “With the education I received at Big Bend I was able to pass the intense math test and apprenticeship entrance exam with confidence," stated Parks.

Parks is now an official IBEW Local 191, Apprentice Electrician. He is currently employed at the Quincy Intuit site. He has completed 20% of his apprenticeship and is eager to become a journeyman in the electrical field. Parks stated the working relationship BBCC has with the IBEW union provided him a great overview of what the industry had to offer and then provided him the opportunity to successfully become a union member.
WHAT IS

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY?

Electrical and control system technologies are increasingly sophisticated and complex. They have changed the fabric of our existence. Today’s industrial electrician is a multifaceted technician.

Modern industrial plants require skilled technicians who maintain, calibrate, repair, troubleshoot, and actively seek new innovation.

Our mission at the IET is to prepare students for entry into the world of industrial electricity, along with a thorough understanding of electrical safety rules, and safe work practices.

Students in the IET program are instructed in industrial safety procedures, electrical and electronic theory, applied industrial electricity, electrical codes, process control and instrumentation, and programmable logic controllers.

High demand, competitive salaries, and increasing job opportunities make industrial electrical technology an outstanding career choice.

Graduates leave with the basic skills needed to work in a variety of fields including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting and manufacturing.