

Transcript: [Episode 30 / April 12, 2010](#)

Coming up next on ATE TV: Geographical information systems.

Add man hole, yup it's the only one in there.

Computer Aided Design.

You can make it 3 dimensional, you can look at it from all different angles.

And water treatment technology.

This is a flowing Artesian well, the dies coming right up there.

Now on ATE TV. From across the country to your own backyard, ATE TV shows you the many advanced technological education opportunities available at your local community college. Interested in learning how GIS Technology can get you out of an office job and into an exciting new career? Let's see what's happening at Central Piedmont Community College.

My name is Julia Mitchell. I am a student here at Central Piedmont Community College. I'm in the GIS program, and I'm about to go into my class and it's starting.

We are going to scan and geo reference, a paper map...copy onto the trimble unit right here.

We're going to go out, take some readings, bring those back and put them in there and match them and identify those spots on the maps.

Central Piedmont Community College here is an excellent college. The variety of different classes that they offer was what attracted me to it.

Add man hole, yup that's the only one in there.

I had always worked in administrative office management, and needed a change of jobs, or careers, and it was just perfect timing, there I was.

I have the featured properties.

Uh-huh.

Now touch that.

Yep. So X that out.

Click on the pointer button.

I've taken a variety of other college classes but really have never completed a full associates or degree program.

You haven't made it yours yet. Go up a level.

But we don't want this one, this is the one that's not enough memory

Being able to work with maps is something I've always found interesting. The GIS capabilities, once I started learning about them, I just want to learn as much as I can to see what I'd do with it. I don't have a specific little niche I want to go into, I'm just interested in learning to see what I can do with it. I am working in the field. I put my name in on the list to see if there was any employers out there interested in bringing a trainee in, and I was hired on and I'm doing 3D work now with the mapping, which is what the company does that I work with. It's very challenging, it's very interesting. I'm enjoying it, so...

Julia's move from an office management position into a high paying career as a GIS technician is off to a fast start. Community colleges all across the country offer similar programs that can help you transition into the expanding world of GIS technology. If you have an interest in visualizing your ideas into a 3 dimensional world, here's a tool that's being used by architects, engineers, drafters, and artists, that can help you succeed.

CAD...

Coronary artery disease.

Cardiac...

Another name of one of your friends?

Academic.

Camouflage and demolition.

Had that one baby.

Had a CAT scan, everything was fine.

Something, I don't know.

What is this?

CAD stands for computer aided design, and what you're able to do is to basically use lines, different circles, and you build the likeness of a product and you can make it 3 dimensional, you can look at it from all different angles. It's basically you've got a picture of that model that you can look at in any direction.

So with CAD companies benefit from lower product development costs and a shortened design cycle. CAD is just one example of a high tech in demand application being taught at community colleges.

Thinking about going back to school in order to start a new career? Well community colleges across the country offer technology programs that can prepare you for new and exciting fields in record time.

My name's Mike Poitras. I attend Bristol Community College in Fall River Massachusetts. I'm 42 now, I started school again at 38 and I just never saw myself in a field that...something that would call a career that's for sure. I drove trucks. I thought that's what I was going to do for the rest of my life. The money was good, but now I can exceed that income and do what I enjoy. It's not like work at all.

What we're trying to do is recreate what's going on in the treatment plant.

Everything in life is chemistry, I'm starting to learn. When I started looking into different fields with a lot of availability for work, there was more in water treatment technology than anything. Water is depleting all over the world and we just have more and more need for fresh drinking water. It's a lot of data collection and you have to take a lot of samples, you have to record flows, how much water is coming into your plant, how much is being filtered. You have to work on pumps, different types of valves. You learn a lot as you go. You get to see the stuff in action. With me it was almost 20 years since I had had, you know, the math and the chemistry.

This is a flowing Artesian well.

If you have an issue with a class or you need tutoring, they have so much help here it's never a problem.

Even though that well is above the surface of the ground...

The programs encourage the internships, and what happened with me was my instructor set me up with a internship at a desalination plant that opened locally; state of the art plant, top of the line, it's 80 million dollars worth of equipment. After the 2 weeks was up it turned out they needed to hire a few full time operators, and I didn't have my license at the time but because I had the education I had from the school, they were very comfortable with taking me on. I'll be getting my water treatment license in a couple of weeks. Environmental technology is definitely the future.

There's so many different aspects...the way things are these days, and we definitely need people in this field. My father always used to tell me if you like what you do, you won't work a day in your life, and I haven't worked a day yet.

Mike's decision to take a course in environmental technology has really worked out. If you think you might be interested in a career in water treatment, or other environmental sciences, be sure to check out programs offered at your local community college.

For more information on anything you've seen today, explore our website at ATE TV.org.

Thanks for watching.