

## Making a Difference in the Engineering World

SETA has been creating, developing and supporting incredible engineers for over 50 years and we're immensely proud of that heritage.

Let's meet one of our former apprentices...



### Hash Kangarani

Metal Trades Instructor at SETA

An apprentice at SETA in 2009/10

Employer at the time:

Year 1: Motherwell Bridge Tankage

Years 2, 3 & 4: PTF Engineering

### **It looks like you had some employer changes during your apprenticeship. Can you tell us about that?**

Yes, that's right. My apprenticeship started with Motherwell Bridge Tankage, a company based at Fawley Refinery that designed, engineered and built storage tanks for the Oil and Gas, Petrochemical, Power and Food sectors worldwide. Unfortunately they laid off all their apprentices (three of us at SETA) towards the end of my first year. Thankfully, SETA informed their other apprentice employers of our predicament and we were all offered alternative positions. I went on to work for PTF Engineering.

### **Why did you choose the apprenticeship route?**

After school I went to Brockenhurst College for two years to study BTEC Engineering. I then worked for a small engineering company for two years after completing my BTEC as I still didn't really know what I wanted to do as a career. I firmly believe that many young people, even into early adulthood, don't know what path they want to go down. It can take time to find your passion and you have to try a few things. You might not like a job but it's worth giving a few things a go.

I wanted to do an apprenticeship when I left school but family pressure meant that I went to college instead. My father would have preferred that I studied A-levels and then gone on to University but that wasn't for me. I started to attend Open Days at SETA and one at the refinery itself (Exxon), intending to follow a mechanical maintenance route. I started my apprenticeship in September 2009 and I had the opportunity to undertake more welding and fabrication.

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### **What were your most memorable or standout moments at SETA?**

I enjoyed the project work we did when I was an apprentice - I built part of a large steel lifting structure. It was great to apply what I was learning to a real life situation and putting newly learned skills to good use. I also worked on some steel water tanks to support another group of students and their project.

Another important part of my time at SETA is that I made good friends.

### **What did you do when you completed your apprenticeship?**

Following my apprenticeship I stayed with PTF Engineering for almost 10 years. For half of that time I was employed by them and the other half I was self-employed. I loved the flexibility of working for myself as it also gave me the opportunity to work in different environments.

COVID hit in 2020 so work at PTF dried up. I carried on with the self-employed work with various clients for a few years until taking the role at SETA.

I've been in and out of engineering workshops delivering various pipe and steelwork fabrications since my apprenticeship. That breadth of experience has given me a great variety of skills, all of which I've learned in a practical context. This is all knowledge that I can pass on to new apprentices.

### **How do you deal with challenges in engineering?**

There are always new challenges in engineering and it's important to find alternative solutions to produce the job most efficiently. I like thinking on my feet and putting forward new ideas. Sometimes it can be difficult to get others to listen or accept that there may be a better way of doing something. However it's important that we encourage new ideas; I tell my students that we should always be open-minded and should never stop learning. There are multiple ways to reach that end goal.

### **What have been your greatest successes?**

When I was at PTF I trained and mentored two of their apprentices who are now successful engineers in their own right. It was satisfying to see them grow and become accomplished engineers with my support. I'm glad they listened to me!

### **What advice would you give to anyone trying to find their path to a great career?**

Only you know yourself – who you are, what you want to do, what your limitations might be and what interests you. You have any opportunity to go as far as you want if you're true to yourself.