



EPISODE 30: SHOW NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

In this interview with Carl Benttine, Senior Electronics Technician at Hormel Foods, we discussed the food processing industry and one message was clear: Today technicians' work changes very rapidly so they are doing something quite different every day. They have to be agile and multi-skilled, so there is a lot of on-the-job training. The food processing industry provides a great example of how technicians use a full range of electromechanical, automation and IT skills to be successful in their jobs.

Your action item for today is to look at the structure of your program. Are you including enough real-world scenarios where students are asked to quickly shift projects and bring themselves up to speed? For example, do your electronics students face cybersecurity issues in their class projects? Do they suddenly need to integrate a vision system into their project? Are they confronted with a rapidly changing situation to which they must adapt? A starting point is offered by the instructional cards for students and faculty from the [Preparing Technicians for the Future of Work](#) project. The scenarios in those cards are a good starting point for constructing scenarios that cross STEM disciplines. Imagine the positive impression your students will make in a job interview when they describe their response to a rapidly changing project and how they managed it.