



Andrew MacGregor

HOUSE MECHANIC
AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY
Crookston, Minnesota



Andrew is a House Mechanic at American Crystal Sugar Company's Crookston, Minnesota, factory.

You participated in American Crystal Sugar Company's (ACSC) Vocational Scholarship and Training Program, which launched you into your career as a House Mechanic. What's something you learned during your training at Minnesota North College that you still use today?

"Learning how to balance urgency with safety is probably one of the most valuable things I took away from Minnesota North College. In a processing plant, all equipment is vital, and when it goes down, it is urgent for maintenance to get it going; downtime costs money. But one thing that was stressed throughout my schooling, and something that we value and practice every day at ACSC, is that safety comes first. There's always time to properly lock out equipment, whether it's gearboxes, pumps, conveyors, or elevators."

Why is it important to preserve manufacturing and union jobs in places like Crookston? What does being part of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union (BCTGM) mean to you and for your job?

"Crookston is a smaller town, so good union jobs like mine at American Crystal are vital to our community. Being part of a union means having a voice. It helps provide good wages and benefits, and for me, it means having a stable career with opportunities for growth. ACSC invested in me when I was still in high school, and because of that, I was able to get an education, start a career, and stay in the area I grew up in. That's why preserving manufacturing and union jobs is important, they create opportunities for the next generation just like they did for me. Not everybody wants to move to a big city, and companies like American Crystal give people the opportunity to build a career right here at home."



Interesting Fact

Andrew was taught how to weld at 15 by his father while restoring a 1967 Mustang, leading to a passion for fixing and building things. That curiosity about how things work is what eventually led him into the millwright trade.

