Project COMPLETE Interview with Dr. Allie deLeo-Allen: April 2022

What is your role in the ICET Program at Louisiana Tech?
I am a lecturer in the ICET Program.

How long have you been in this role?
I began teaching full time in fall of 2021 but have been teaching part-time in the ICET program since spring 2020.

What interested you in being part of the teaching faculty in this program?
The thoughtful development of the ICET program by our faculty with the input from our industrial partners regarding industry needs first intrigued me to be a part of this program. The faculty's hard work resulted in a program that is a perfect fit for our students whose strengths play towards a more application-based curriculum and prepares these students for a great career.

What would you want high school students to know about this field?
The ICET program is a fantastic program for students who are interested in engineering topics and whose interests and strengths lie in hands-on application.

What do you wish your current students had experienced/learned/known before being part of the Instrumentation program at the college level?
A solid foundation in algebra is essential to be successful in the ICET program. College Algebra is one of the required math courses within the program, but some students enter the program having already taken College Algebra. When you take this course, whether you are enrolled at Louisiana Tech University or at another institution, do your best to fully understand the material and continue to practice your skills even after completing the course.

What has been the most rewarding part of working with students in this program?
Numerous courses in the ICET program are project-based. In the initial stages of the projects, some students seem overwhelmed or uncertain what route to take towards a solution. As the quarter progresses and with a little guidance, the students accomplish the goals they set out to. Seeing how proud the students are of their project due to their own hard work, determination, and dedication to the course is most rewarding.

What non-academic skills do you see being most helpful for students in this field? (resourcefulness, determination, curiosity, etc.)
Inquisitiveness and diligence. In this field, it is key for students to be curious and have a desire to want to learn why something behaves the way it does, how something works, etc. Additionally, keeping up with and being persistent in your schoolwork is essential to be successful in this program.

What might surprise students about this program/field?
By the time you graduate, you will have gained knowledge and developed many skills that are directly applicable to industry, and companies are taking notice!