

High Plains Technology Center wind tech student Natalie Clements took her research very serious when she was looking for the best wind tech program in America, and her research led her to HPTC.

Clements moved to Woodward from Baltimore, Maryland, in December and began the 20-week program. She will graduate May 27 and start her first job as a wind tech May 31 at a wind farm in Colorado.

Clements said she chose HPTC over all the other training sites in the U.S. because of its range of certifications and the time it took to earn them.

“It was the only school with a turbine that offers 23 certifications within five months and had a very high job placement at completion of the program. Others required a five-year apprenticeship,” she said.

HPTC wind tech instructor Jack Day said, “The 20-week program allows a small number of students per session to make sure everyone can learn and have the hands-on experience. There is a 90 percent hiring rate by the end of the program, if not beforehand. The average hourly wage is \$26 an hour and average salary is \$70,000, which is pretty good for five months of training.”

Clements recently received the Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy Wind at Our Backs Scholarship. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis with a target of granting three to five scholarships each year.

“My time at High Plains has been amazing,” Clements said. “Everyone is so nice here and really go out of their way to answer any questions I have and help me out; it’s definitely a different culture from where I’m from. I would definitely recommend High Plains to those interested in a career in wind. I moved from a different part of the country because my research showed that HPTC was the No. 1 place to start off a wind career, and it’s proven true.

For more information about the wind tech program, visit hptc.edu or 580-571-6167.