

Brian Malone, UIC-IAC Lead Student -on his CONVERSATION WITH JACQUES BEAUDRY-LOSIQUE

At the Ohio Technology Showcase, I spent some time with Jacques Beaudry-Losique talking about the ITP and IAC programs. With me was Bill Orthwein from DOE's Atlantic Region.

Mr. Beaudry-Losique wanted to know if we could provide assessment recommendations by sending a survey to industrial firms in lieu of on-site assessments. I told him that may not be a good idea for several reasons, which include:

- Plant management often does not have complete information regarding operations in general and energy conservation in particular. Mr. Beaudry-Losique agreed with me on that point.
- There are often discrepancies between what plant personnel tell us and the data we gain from measurements
- Often we have very good information before arriving onsite and assessing a plant. Even so, there have been numerous occasions where we have identified significant opportunities that pre-assessment information did not hint at
- This approach would also defeat a primary purpose of the program, which is to teach young engineers with hands-on experiences and on-site real world training. Assessments would become less effective for both clients and students if conducted this way.

I concluded that IAC assessments could not be as effective using this approach. Though this method would be good for creating a survey form to prescreen and analyze a plant before an assessment, nothing could replace being onsite.

We then discussed the standard approach to assessments, including day to day operations, one vs. two day assessments, number of students on a standard UIC assessment team, number of students in our Center, and the amount of BTU saving opportunities discovered particularly when analyzing boilers and steam distribution systems. Mr. Beaudry-Losique was not only surprised at the number of assessments I had been on and the number of hours spent each week on IAC work but also that the program included undergraduates as well as Master's and Ph.D candidates. He listened as I discuss the IAC's use of the Best Practices tools and how we are working with the Midwest CHP Applications Center to identify and quantify cogen opportunities.

Overall, I found Mr. Beaudry-Losique to be friendly, approachable and interested in the conversation with me about the IAC. I was sure to tell him how much I liked the program and how much I have benefited from being part of the IAC.