



## THE WORK PLACE

### *Lessons from the road*

BY KATE BOEMEKE

**A PhD BEHIND THE WHEEL?** Why not. In this economy, truck driving is offering career opportunities to people from all walks of life.

The basic requirements? A desire to get back into the workforce A clean record on the road and off. The ability to live on the road for weeks at a time. The ability to get in and out of a truck cab multiple times a day. The strength to life 50-80 pounds from the ground to the truck bed. And, a commercial driver's license. MTC Truck Driver Training can help with that one.

MTC has been helping people get jobs in the trucking industry since 1993. The training takes 3-4 weeks to complete. Students attend class for 10 hours a day, five days a week. The cost of tuition is \$3,895, but with an estimated median hourly wage of \$18 (Bureau of Labor Statistics), drivers can earn back their tuition in just over five weeks. In addition to good wages, most companies offer the benefits of a large company. Some companies even offer tuition reimbursement once the driver in on the payroll.

However, the biggest benefit for job seekers is that trucking companies are hiring and by all estimates they should continue to hire and remain stable for years to come.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects overall growth of nine percent in truck driving jobs between 2008 and 2018. That's a significant growth opportunity, representing about 291,000 new jobs. Here's proof. A Labor Department report released in

April indicated that the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector posted 64,000 job openings in February. That number was roughly two-thirds hire than a year ago.

"This is an opportunity for job seekers to get back into the workforce quickly without a large investment in training and without an advanced degree," said MTC's Jeff Bauza.

True, MTC can train a person with a PhD to be a truck driver, but a college degree is not actually required.

"We see a lot of 20- to 22-year-olds entering the training at the start of their careers," Bauza said, "and a lot of people in the 45-plus age group, who are changing careers mid-life."

Another emerging trend is more husband and wife teams on the road.

"Why not," Bauza said. "One can drive while the other one sleeps."

When trucks are driven by teams, the hours a truck can legally operate double, the freight arrives quicker and the couple can earn a very good wage. However, but you have to be a pretty good terms with your partner to share such close quarters.

"We tell would-be drivers that living in a truck cab is a lot like camping," Bauza said. "If they don't like camping, truck driving probably isn't the right career for them."

Still Bauza admits that "the comfort of the vehicle has improved vastly over the last 10 years. Most people are pleasantly surprised when they see the inside of a cab for the first time."



#### Working with the best

MTC is proud to work with industry partners who are among the biggest and best transport companies on the road. MTC also takes pride in its record of providing training to over 18,000 individuals who make their livings as professional drivers. However, it is important to note that the company does not accept everyone.

"We want to make sure that the students we accept can get a career in the trucking industry. As a company, we pride ourselves in our ability to put qualified people to work in a job they will enjoy. If we can't do this we won't accept that student into our program," Bauza said. He added that any record of theft or drug use is something the company will absolutely not allow.

Want to learn more? Call 1-800-455-4682 or check out MTC online at [beatrucker.com](http://beatrucker.com).

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