

## Division of Chemical Technicians, Inc. National Chemical Technician Award

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Michael W. Salyer, Technologist at the Eastman Chemical Company, is the 2008 winner of the National Chemical Technician Award. Mr. Salyer is the 21<sup>th</sup> recipient of the annual National Chemical Technician Award, which is awarded for technical and communication skills, safety, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. Additionally, professional and community activities are considered.

During Michael's 18 year career, 17 of which are at Eastman Chemical Company, he has been an integral part of many new product and process development teams. Michael was an integral member of the team that developed and commercialized the Eastman Tritan™ Copolyesters and is "One of the unsung heroes of Tritan™." Michael's latest assignment is to manage Eastman's Chemical Pilot Plants Operations Preparation Laboratory.

Jennifer McCusker, Michael's former supervisor, says, "His impeccable reputation as a valuable team member makes him a sought- after resource for complex and high profile projects. He has repeatedly demonstrated great leadership and reliability far beyond the normal expectations of a technician". Jennifer describes him as a "**Jack of all trades**", a "**go to person**" and states that he has a "**can do**" attitude..

David Hitch, another former supervisor, says, "Michael's most impressive traits are his sense of dedication and commitment. Even though Michael is a single parent, I have seen him on countless occasions make personal accommodations to devote the time necessary to accomplish his tasks at Eastman. What impresses me most about this is that even though Michael goes out of his way to excel professionally, he does not let that interfere with the quality of his relationship with his son who comes first in his life."

Among the many outside activities that Michael participates in are the Andrew Johnson Elementary reading program, Chemicals Development Division's United Way Representative, American Chemical Society's National Chemistry Week's 4th Grader's Days, Boy Scouts and the Robinson Middle School Band.