

Advanced Energy Works for California

Chris began at BYD in February of 2017 as a general laborer and was promoted rapidly to Lead, then to Supervisor, then to Chassis Department Manager, and finally to his current position. As Assembly Production Manager at BYD Coach and Bus, Chris Espinoza leads a team of 116 employees through the complex and precise process of assembling BYD's battery-electric buses. He manages the production schedule of as many as 90 buses at a time.

Chris served in the United States Army for nine and a half years. He planned to stay in the military for life, but he was injured while stationed in Iraq. After returning home, he went to work in the fossil fuel industry as an oilfield laborer. The skills he learned in the Army and then applied in the oilfields are why he is successful in advanced energy: engineering, critical thinking, management, discipline, and staying cool under stress.

Now working in advanced energy, Chris says, "you have the ability to be a part of something special, something innovative—and if I could talk to the guys back there [in the oilfields], I would say 'hey you guys need to come here and check this out because this is our future.'"

BYD's North American headquarters is in downtown Los Angeles, not far from BYD's 550,000-square-foot, battery-electric bus manufacturing facility in Lancaster. BYD employs more than 1000 workers in United States and over 220,000 globally. In addition to locally-made electric buses, BYD also manufactures and sells battery-electric heavy-duty trucks, forklifts, monorails and energy storage systems. BYD is one of the world's largest manufacturers of rechargeable batteries and electric vehicles. BYD has a unionized workforce (SMART Local 105) and a Community Benefits Agreement, establishing training and apprenticeship programs for workers with traditionally high barriers to employment, and mandating diversity in hiring.

Advanced Energy Works

A movement of advanced energy workers and supporters to make advanced energy grow, create millions of jobs, and strengthen our economy in communities across America.

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CHRIS ESPINOZA

BYD

Assembly Production Manager

Lancaster

"I see that advanced energy had the potential to start turning the world around. It's not only about bringing money to the table, it's about being able to make a difference."

- CHRIS ESPINOZA, BYD



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