

Energize Their Future

THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
Local 26 IBEW and National Electrical Contractors Association

United for Quality.

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CareerCurrents

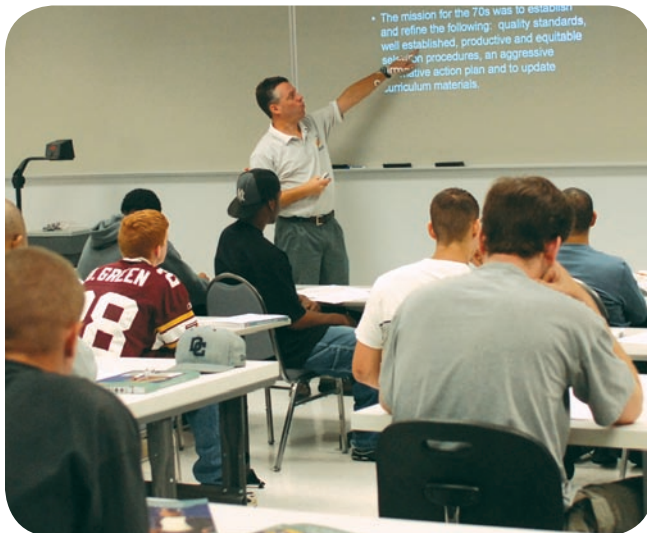
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Students Can Continue Their Education without Going to College

Counselors know that high school students are on the doorstep of possibility. For those students with an aptitude for math and science, college is just one of many options. Electrical apprenticeships, like the one provided by the Washington area Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JATC), pave the way to a stable, high-paying career in electrical construction.

The JATC, an organization that oversees education and training of electrical apprentices in our area, provides their accredited program in a new state-of-the-art facility that rivals any technology-oriented university setting. It is jointly funded by National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the Local 26 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Their cutting edge apprenticeship program uses innovative practices, the latest technology and experienced instructors to prepare future electricians for the demanding Washington, DC construction market.

The diversified portfolio of construction projects in the Washington, DC area keeps the market booming and, keeps electrical contractors eager to hire qualified electricians, which means hardworking, well trained apprentices can look forward to a long lasting and lucrative career.



"We are always seeking well trained electricians to work on projects around the region," says Sonia Vargas, president of VarcoMac Electrical Construction Co.

The application process is similar to applying for college. While SAT scores are not required, applicants must provide their high school transcripts and take an aptitude test. Students can find all of the requirements at www.electricalalliance.org.

Once accepted, apprentices select a three or five-year program depending on their career goals and earn pay and benefits while in class and during supervised job site training. In addition, tuition is free, which means no student loans to repay, and during training apprentices could earn more than \$150,000. Their only expense is for books, personal tools, and transportation. After apprentices complete their training and achieve journeyman rank, they can earn up to \$73,000 per year plus benefits. Foremen and supervisors earn more.

During their apprenticeship, students receive training in electrical theory by certified instructors with field experience. The hands-on labs have been designed to give them a realistic view of what they will encounter on the job site and the ability to practice it before facing similar challenges in the field. *Continued on next page*

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The state-of-the-art training facility is unique for an apprenticeship program and offers cutting-edge features such as wiring in every classroom for video on demand. Instructors can call up hundreds of training videos for use in their classrooms. In addition, they can Podcast their lectures over the Internet.

Another unique feature of the facility is that all of the equipment that actually powers the building has been placed where students can examine it, to help them familiarize themselves with common equipment found on the job site. "Our students sharpen their skills on the actual equipment they use on the job," says David McCord, director of the JATC.



When not in the classroom, apprentices rotate through different electrical contractors' job sites to train in a variety of settings and hone a broad range of skills. Past apprentices have worked on some of the biggest projects in the region such as the new Nationals ball-park, Andrews Air Force Base and the National Institutes of Health.

Once apprentices complete their training, they are journeyman electricians. In addition to working in the field, many go on to work in office positions as project estimators or project managers or even start their own businesses.

JATC classes begin in July/August. Applications are accepted year round, but must be received by April for the upcoming academic year. Students may be employed prior to starting the formal apprenticeship program. Visit www.electricalalliance.org for all of the details.

More information about the JATC apprenticeship program and application requirements is available at www.electricalalliance.org. Please contact us at **301-429-2575** to request additional materials for your office, attend a college fair at your school, or arrange a tour of our training facility for the counselors in your district. DC