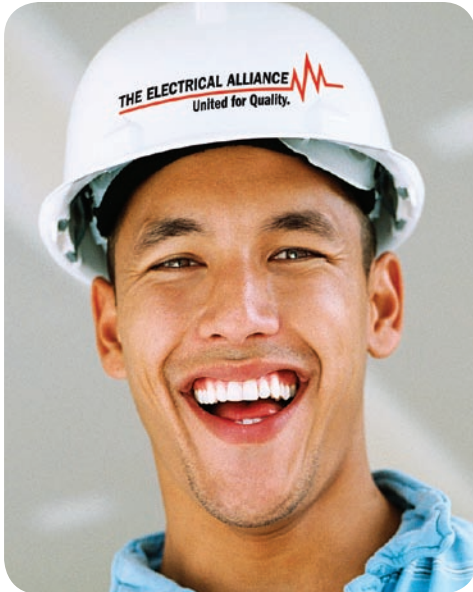


Energize Their Future

THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
Local 26 IBEW and National Electrical Contractors Association

United for Quality.

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CareerCurrents

News and Views for Career-Minded Students | Fall 08

Finding a Stable Career in an Up or Down Economy

Skilled Electricians in Demand in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia

As economic instability becomes increasingly apparent, the rising cost of college tuition paired with job scarcity makes life after high school appear daunting for many soon-to-be graduates. With such economic concerns, choosing the right career has become not only more important, but more challenging. For individuals strong in both math and science, a career in the electrical field looks, well...very bright.

At the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee's (JATC) state-of-the-art training facility, apprentices experience traditional classroom training in electrical theory. Plus, they rotate through job sites to gain on-site work experience. This unique method allows these apprentices to gain experience in the field while becoming familiar with the fundamentals as well. This comprehensive, accredited program for electrical and telecommunications apprentices is managed by the JATC and jointly funded by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the Local 26 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) who together make up the Electrical Alliance.

If you know an ambitious student seeking intense training for a career that is boundless and undoubtedly fulfilling, help them consider the Electrical Alliance. The demand for electrical work is forecast to increase throughout this decade due to factors including population growth, increased prominence of computers and telecommunications equipment, and property development. As the demand for electrical work rises, there is more and more of a need for qualified electricians.

David McCord, training director of the JATC Local 26 in Washington, D.C. has witnessed this first hand. "At the JATC, we offer opportunities to qualified individuals, as well as the potential for growth within their profession," he says.

The Apprenticeship's three and five year programs are free. Free? How can that be possible? McCord confirms, "All of the training is available with no cost for books or tuition and job placement by the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee is a mandatory part of the electrical & telecommunication programs we offer." In addition, apprentices earn up to \$150,000 during their training. *Continued on next page*

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Continued from other side



And just this year, despite the uncertainty of the current job market, all 172 of the JATC's graduates had job offers in hand. These talented journeymen electricians are earning up to \$73,000 a year, plus benefits, without the burden of student loans at the conclusion of their training.

The JATC's demanding apprenticeship program is unique in the industry. Most electricians do not receive such state-of-the-art, high quality training. In fact, *Electrical Contractor* magazine reports that its 2008 survey shows only 30% of electrical contractor employees received their formal training through an apprenticeship program.

There exists much room for advancement in the electrical industry, particularly with such a valuable diploma from the JATC.

"There are a tremendous number of management and supervisory positions currently available and many more will become available due to the retiring employees," McCord states.

Electrical Contractor magazine's survey also concludes that many electrical contractors will retire in the upcoming two decades, as the average age of these individuals is 51. This age gap indicates that a younger generation of electricians will need to fill these office positions as project estimators, project managers or even start their own businesses. The apprenticeship fosters the creativity of bright, innovative, ambitious electricians—primed to fill these positions as the new generation of leaders in the industry.

In an up or down economy, electricians are in a stable, exciting career. As a counselor, guide talented students to help brighten the future of our nation. These individuals can pursue a rewarding career as an electrician and find their niche within the Electrical Alliance.

Visit www.electricalalliance.org to review the requirements of the program and to learn a little more about the positive impact this joint effort is creating.



More information about the JATC apprenticeship program and application requirements is available at www.electricalalliance.org. Please contact us at (301) 429-2575 if we can provide you with 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.