

Energize Their Future

THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
Local 26 IBEW and National Electrical Contractors Association

United for Quality.

4200 Evergreen Lane, Suite 335, Annandale, Virginia 22003-3245 | Phone: 703-658-4383 | Fax: 703-658-4387 | www.electricalalliance.org

CareerCurrents

News and Views for Career-Minded Students | **Spring 09**

Training for a High-Paying, Stable Career is Next Door

Additional training location provides convenience to local electrical students

The field of electrical construction is expanding like never before to meet the needs of new green technologies. It provides exciting opportunities to work on the buildings of today and tomorrow. Students with strong math and science skills are needed to fill positions as the future leaders of this field—a career in which graduates of a five-year apprenticeship program earn up to \$73,000 per year plus benefits.

The Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) oversees education and training of electrical and telecommunications apprentices in our area, providing their accredited program in state-of-the-art facilities that rival any technology oriented university setting. It is jointly funded by National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and Local 26 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), who together make up the Electrical Alliance.

Recently, the JATC purchased a new facility in Manassas, VA. The Manassas location offers the same training equipment as the JATC's Lanham, MD campus, giving students a choice to complete their training at the location most convenient to them. The new location also includes a manhole for confined spaces training.

"Apprentices can take classes at either facility, but all apprentices will go to Manassas for the confined spaces training," says David McCord, director of training at the JATC.

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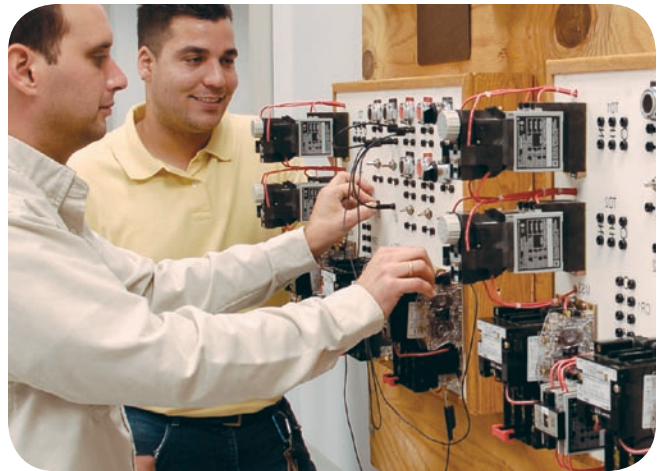
News and Views for Career-Minded Students | Spring 09

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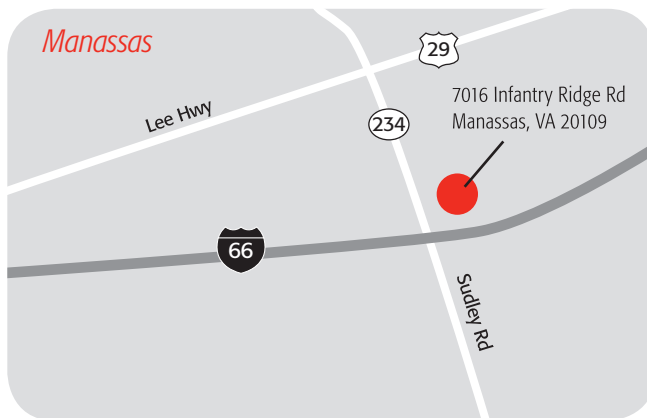
The JATC continues to advance its training program and enhance its learning environment. It recently installed a solar array to provide power for its headquarters in Lanham, MD and serve as a hands-on training tool for apprentices during their alternative energy class.

The cutting edge apprenticeship program is recognized for using innovative practices, the latest technology and experienced instructors to prepare future electricians/telecommunications technicians for the demanding regional construction market.

“We’re always looking for the next thing to advance our training program,” explains McCord. “We’ll add alternative energy features that apprentices can learn from to the Manassas location in the future.”



Training Locations:



Tuition for the apprenticeship program is free. The apprentices' only expenses are for personal tools and transportation. Depending on their career goals, apprentices select a three-year telecommunications program or five-year electrical program and earn pay and benefits while in class and during supervised job site training.

During their apprenticeship, students receive training in electrical theory by certified instructors with field experience in hands-on labs which give them a realistic view of what they will encounter on the job site. Plus, all the equipment that actually powers a building has been placed where students can examine it; to help familiarize them with common equipment found on the job site.

When not in the classroom, apprentices rotate through different electrical contractors' job sites to train in a variety of settings to sharpen their skills. Past apprentices have worked on some of the biggest projects in the region such as the control tower at Dulles Airport, the Washington Nationals ballpark, and the Lincoln Memorial.

JATC classes begin in July/August; however, apprentices may start work prior to beginning class. Applications are accepted year round, but must be received by the end of May for the upcoming academic year. Visit the Electrical Alliance career Web site, www.getchargedup.org, for application details as well as student information, career videos and more.

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 facilities for the counselors in your district.