

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 | **Winter 09**

The Next Generation of Buildings

Today's Electrical Apprentices Learning How to Build Tomorrow's Sustainable Buildings

Buildings are becoming more energy efficient and more technologically advanced by the day. This means skilled electricians who know how to install the latest systems are in high demand.

"The hottest trend right now is 'smart buildings,'" says Lew Tagliaferre, a writer for *Buildings* magazine. "The automated buildings will connect to a 'smart grid' and increase energy efficiency far beyond today's capabilities."

"The move toward alternative energy options will continue to create more job opportunities in our industry."

Students with strong math and science skills should consider a career as an electrician. This career provides exciting opportunities to work on the most sophisticated buildings in our area while earning up to \$73,000 per year plus benefits.

"The move toward alternative energy options will continue to create more job opportunities in our industry," says David McCord, director of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC). "Apprentices can expect a stable, high-paying career."

The JATC oversees education and training of electrical and telecommunications apprentices in our area, providing 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 Local 26 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), who together make up the Electrical Alliance.

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. For example, the JATC recently installed a solar array to provide power for its facility and serve as a hands-on training tool for apprentices.

Tuition is free. The apprentices' only expenses are for personal tools and transportation.

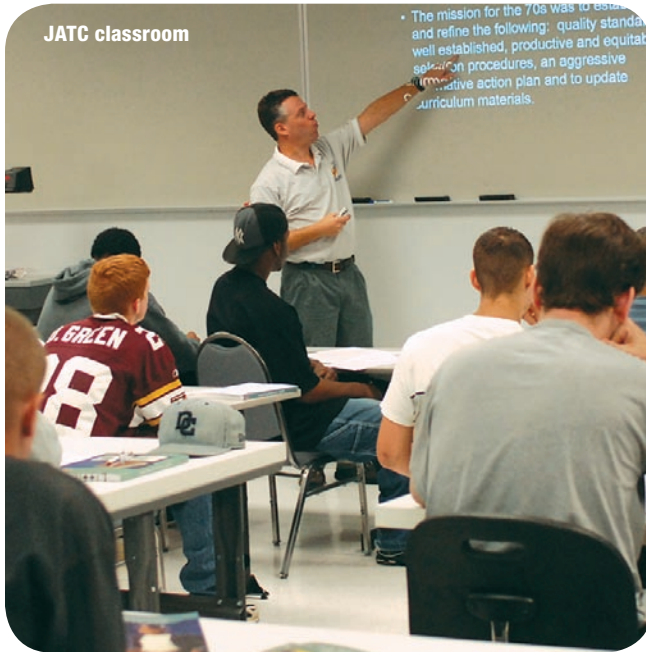


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Depending on their career goals, apprentices select a three-year telecommunications program or five-year electrical program and earn pay while in class and during supervised job site training.

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 the 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.

"It's an exciting time to be in the electrical industry," says Joe Dabbs, of Local 26 IBEW. "Electricians are literally shaping the future of how our buildings function."

JATC classes begin in July/August at its training facilities in Lanham, MD and Manassas, VA; however, there may be opportunities to 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 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** 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.