



San Diego Apprenticeship Training Trust

Building our Future

Graduation 2014

Fall/Winter 2014

Skilled Construction Professionals Graduate From ABC Apprenticeship Program

Seventy-five proud apprentices and craft trainees celebrated the culmination of many years of hard work as they graduated with their apprenticeship and journeyman certificates in June from the Associated Builders and Contractors Apprenticeship Training program.

The members of the Class of 2014 from the San Diego region have completed an apprenticeship and craft training program in skilled crafts including plumbing, pipefitting, electrical, electronic systems technician and sheet metal. Their course of study included up to four years of classroom training and thousands of hours of practical field experience. Several students were presented with special honors recognizing exceptional achievements.

minimum absences) were pipefitting apprentices Jesse Piazza and David Sevilla (Countywide Mechanical Systems); James Benson, plumbing apprentice (HPS Mechanical); sheet metal apprentices Andrew Bell (Chal-

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ABC GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Promote and protect fair and equal training opportunities for all construction workers by expanding and enhancing construction apprenticeship and safety training throughout California.

Clayton Courter, sheet metal apprentice with Southcoast Heating and Air Conditioning, was named Apprentice of the Year for 2014. Courter had a straight A average and perfect class attendance throughout his four year program. During his last year of training, he also volunteered his time to help sheet metal instructors during hands-on training labs, and continues to volunteer his time with ABC initiatives. Courter is also the 2013 National Craft Champion Gold Medalist in Sheet Metal.

The Outstanding Graduates of the Year for 2014 with straight A grade averages and perfect attendance were Christy Alcorn, electrical apprentice with Rowan Electric; Uriel Moreno, sheet metal apprentice with Buxcon Sheet Metal; and Howard Cooper, sheet metal apprentice.

This year's Academic Honor Graduates (with straight A averages and



2014 Apprentice of the Year Clayton Courter (center) with Apprenticeship Committee Chairmen Andy Pina and Ron Dion. Photo: Gayle Falkenthal

lenger Sheet Metal); Steve Carpio and Pedro Ibarra Miranda (Certified Air Conditioning); Daniel Ganss (Pacific Rim Mechanical); Khamphanh Manivanh (Ehmcke Sheet Metal Corporation); and Douglas Parker.

Mark Fredin, plumbing instructor, was named the 2014 Instructor of the Year.

Students enjoyed keynote remarks from speaker Chris Merrill, morning host at KOGO AM Radio. Merrill's

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San Diego students build construction career opportunities at BizTown San Diego



ABC San Diego Community Affairs Director Katie Hansen and San Diego City Councilmember Scott Sherman volunteer at the ABC BizTown storefront.

The McGrath Family Junior Achievement's "BizTown" program provides real world examples to elementary school students of the important role businesses play in San Diego's economy. JA BizTown is a two-story, 10,000-square-foot "mini city" made up of 19 storefronts representing real and familiar San Diego businesses and organizations. Each storefront displays the logo and brings the business to life for the students.

Associated Builders and Contractors of San Diego moved into JA BizTown with its own storefront earlier this year. The workspace features a workbench, sets of tools, safety equipment including vests and

hardhats, and a desk with computer where office management takes place.

During visits to JA BizTown, fifth grade students from throughout San Diego County explore different types of workplaces and the different jobs performed in those workplaces. They also learn basic economic principles, such as buying supplies, issuing invoices and producing paychecks.

Students apply and interview for jobs several weeks before they arrive at JA BizTown. They study a curriculum teaching them about business and employment. Each student gets "hired," works, earns "wages" and manages a checking account.

The 4.5-hour simulation includes two town hall meetings and three business meetings in the shops. There is a mayor and a judge, both elected among the students visiting JA BizTown each day. Jobs include sales, accountants, business managers, medical

Rancho San Diego Elementary School students work on their business plan during their BizTown visit.



professionals, TV reporters, and skilled construction craft professionals.

ABC's JA BizTown construction shop gives students the opportunity to complete a hands-on plumbing project assembling the pipes for a bathroom sink and two electrical projects, wiring a doorbell and assembling LED lights. Instructors provide supervision and assistance, but the students themselves read and discuss the instructions, select their tools, and practice good safety procedures throughout.

"We want to encourage students who have a talent for building things and problem solving to consider the construction industry as a career path," said Katie Hansen, Director of Community Affairs for ABC San Diego. "We teach them it's about a lot more than just figuring out how to build something, it also includes design, management, training, and safety. It uses all the math and reading skills they are learning in school. It's a career for girls as well as boys."

JA BizTown's participating businesses leave students with a sense of the many possible career opportunities open to them, and how to plan their education now to be prepared to pursue a job that interests them and uses their skills.

About 150 schools throughout San Diego County participate in the program each year. Annually, the organization reaches almost 14,000 students through JA BizTown and 50,000 students through its other programs.

Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization supported through community support, successfully bridging the financial and business literacy gap. For more information about Junior Achievement of San Diego, visit www.jasandiego.org.

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Plumbing and pipefitting graduates celebrate their accomplishments at the ABC Apprenticeship Training Program's Hawaiian-themed ceremony at the Bali Hai. Photo: Mike Caples

grandfathers were both proud construction industry professionals. Merrill was presented an ABC hardhat signed by the graduates.

All graduates earned college credits through the San Diego Community College District, which can be applied toward an Associate of Science degree. Six graduating apprentices graduating also earned Associates' degrees by completing additional general education courses plus electives at the same time as their apprenticeship certificates.

"Our apprentices expect to spend a lot of time on the job and in labs mastering the required craft skills," said ABC Apprenticeship Training Trust Chairman Bill Smyth. "What they come to understand is how much they also need to have excellent reading and math skills, computer technology skills, management and planning skills, and be fully trained in safety procedures to be successful," said Smyth. "ABC strives to keep their training up to date with current technology while remaining rooted in knowledge they will always use."

"These young men and women work very hard to get through this program. They spend a full day working on the job and then spend additional nights in the classroom, week in and week out, for four long years," said ABC Apprenticeship Training Trust Executive Director Sherry

Yarbrough. "It takes commitment and determination to graduate from our program. Family support plays a big role in their success."

ABC San Diego's program has been awarded Accredited Training Sponsor Status from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), assuring all its members of nationally recognized training for their craft professionals.

NCCER is a nonprofit education foundation created to develop standardized construction, maintenance, and pipeline curricula with portable credentials and help address the critical skilled workforce shortage. NCCER is affiliated with the University of Florida's M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction.



KOGO Radio host Chris Merrill displays his ABC hard hat signed by graduates as a thank you for providing the keynote speech at graduation ceremonies. Photo: Gayle Falkenthal

Three Champions for ABC San Diego

Three craft competitors representing the Associated Builders and Contractors of San Diego won a trio of silver medals at the ABC National Craft Championships, held at the ABC National Workforce Development Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. This prestigious competition brings together the top apprentices and trainees in the country who vie to be named “number one” in each of 13 trades.

San Diego’s winners include Plumbing champion Richard Ederer of Santee with Sherwood Mechanical; Sheet Metal champion Kevin Sullivan of Alpine formerly with Brian Cox Mechanical; and Electrical champion Franklin Noble of Poway, representing Bergelectric of Escondido.

The three silver medals bring San Diego’s total to 16 medals won by San Diego competitors in 13 years of



San Diegans Win Silver: ABC San Diego Craft Champions celebrate their Silver Medals in Birmingham at the awards ceremony: (left to right) Richard Ederer, Franklin Noble, and Kevin Sullivan.

national competition.

For the first time this year, special safety awards were given to the competitor in each craft discipline who demonstrated the highest level of best practices in safety and operations while competing. ABC San Diego apprentice Franklin Noble won in the Electrical category.

Ederer, Noble, and Sullivan faced off among national finalists from local, regional and



Richard Ederer soldering copper pipe on his Craft Championship plumbing project during competition in Birmingham, Alabama.

state competitions around the country. Prior to the competition, each spent several weeks studying and practicing his skills at the ABC Apprenticeship Training Trust lab facilities in Poway. They received guidance and tips from ABCSD’s instructors and previous competitors.

Sheet metal competitor Kevin Sullivan described the experience as “hectic, nerve racking, a good time, borderline life changing.” Sullivan was so focused during the competition, “I didn’t even notice the spectators. I was head down, sheet metal was flying. I looked up and saw my son once, said hi, and that was about it.” Sullivan invested a lot of personal time in additional training prior to the competition and credited his journeymen mentors at Brian Cox Mechanical with helping prepare him with the necessary skills. Sullivan said it also helped to have other members of the San Diego team there to help calm each other down.

Sherry Yarbrough, ABC Apprenticeship Training Trust Executive Director, and William Smyth, Chief Financial

Officer of Sherwood Mechanical and chairman of the ABC San Diego Apprenticeship Training Trust board of trustees were part of a local group of colleagues cheering on the competitors. “We set the bar higher and higher every single year,” said Smyth. “Our winners compete not just for themselves, but also on behalf of their peers and on behalf of our apprenticeship training program. It’s a lot of pressure.

“For post-secondary students participating in apprenticeship career training programs, there are very few opportunities to compete when compared to students in academic programs. This is why our National Craft Championships are so important to people in the construction industry.

“It was exciting to be in Birmingham to watch and sweat out the results with Richard, Kevin, and Franklin. They deserve so much credit for putting in the hard work it takes to reach this level of excellence.”

A conference highlight, the ABC National Craft Cham-



Competitors including three ABC San Diego representatives work on projects in 13 construction trade categories at the ABC National Craft Championship in Birmingham, Ala. Photo: Jennifer Mouritzen.

pionships event started in 1987 as a way to recognize the high quality of craft training in construction careers. The competition emphasizes the important role craft skills training plays in construction, by evaluating contestants’ knowledge of their craft as well as their skill and talent. Seasoned



Franklin Noble hard at work on his Craft Championship project during competition in Birmingham, Alabama.

apprentices and craft trainees from around the country compete head-to-head to determine the top three craftpersons in each trade.

The first part of the competition features a written test of the competitor’s technical and theoretical knowl-

edge. On day two, apprentices and craft trainees are assigned their workspaces, and given the plans, tools and materials they need to build professional projects. Judges observe and inspect the ongoing work being performed. When time is called, the judges move in for the final inspection. All of this takes place before a live audience. The results are announced in award ceremonies the following day.

To compete in the national event, contestants must first successfully complete hundreds of hours of classroom training and thousands of hours of practical field experience to be eligible for preliminary local competitions.

Girls Build Careers in Construction at Camp NAWIC

The San Diego National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) hosted its seventh annual "Camp NAWIC" Construction Summer Day Camp at Kearny High School's Stanley E. Foster School of Engineering, Innovation and Design (EID) in San Diego June 16-20.



Participants pose with their plumbing frame projects at Camp NAWIC.

With women making up only nine percent of the construction workforce today according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Camp NAWIC is an effort to expose young women to their potential for a career in construction at an early age and encourage them to study the literacy and math skills needed to pursue construction training.

At the week-long Camp NAWIC, high school students took on a wide variety of "journeyman" and "apprentice" projects in various trades. ABC San Diego conducted an all-day plumbing project for 12 girls interested in construction careers. Instructors and volunteers gave the young women hands-on experience in basic plumbing including the installation of faucets, replacing the fill valve for a toilet, and cutting cast iron pipes. The campers completed a pipe picture frame with assorted pipes, and used recycled PVC pipes to construct a planter box. Every project included lessons in proper safety procedures.

NAWIC originally began as Women in Construction of Fort Worth, Texas. Sixteen women working in the construction industry founded it in 1953. The group was so successful, it gained its national charter in 1955 and became the National Association of Women in Construction. Today, NAWIC provides its members with opportunities for professional development, education, networking, leadership training, public service and more.



Camp NAWIC students working on project.

ABC San Diego volunteers participating in the plumbing hands-on training day included Andy Pina with Pacific Rim Mechanical, Committee Chairman; Kirk Taylor with West Coast Air, Committee Member; Clayton Courter, ABC Graduate and National Craft Championship Gold medal winner; ABC Instructor Al Riso; Rhiannon Rogers, Division of Apprentice Standards Consultant; and ABC staff Greg Eyer, Katie Hansen and Tracey Barrett.

Thanks to El Cajon Plumbing & Heating Supply, Pacific Rim Mechanical, Spear Manufacturing and Viega Plumbing & Heating for donating the materials. Thanks to all of the volunteers who made this day successful.



ABC Committee Chair Andy Pina works with Camp NAWIC students.

Katie Hansen Joins Workforce Investment Board



Katie Hansen, ABC San Diego Apprenticeship Training Trust Community Affairs Director.

Katie Hansen, Community Affairs Director for ABC San Diego, has been appointed to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

The San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) is designated by the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego to receive state and federal dollars that are used to fund job training programs throughout the region. It also provides vital information on the San Diego labor market to help anticipate employment trends, needs and opportunities.

The WIB is an advocate for workforce programs that address the employment needs of the San Diego region. Members provide direction on ways to increase and improve job training opportunities; maintain a partnership between

business and government to coordinate those efforts; and make recommendations and oversight for funding and policy development.

Hansen will serve alongside other community leaders who represent all areas of the county, including business, education, community-based organizations, organized labor, and leaders and advocates for workforce development. Members serve two-year terms.

"The Workforce Investment Board plays an important role in funding workforce development and job training programs in San Diego. I am honored to represent the Associated Builders and Contractors Apprenticeship Training program on the Board. High quality apprenticeship programs like the one offered by ABC San Diego play an important role in providing a highly skilled workforce for San Diego's employers," said Hansen.

Hansen will contribute over 10 years of experience in the public and private sectors in her role on the Workforce Investment Board. Her unique understanding of the challenges facing employers in the San Diego region from the biotechnology industry to restaurants, hotels and construction companies make her a valuable addition. Hansen says she hopes to expand the visibility and understanding of ABC's apprenticeship program among workforce training advocates.

Annual Safety Saturday Huge Success

Safety is a major focus of ABC and our contractor members are leaders in on the job safety.

On Saturday, August 2 more than 130 participants attended ABC's second annual safety event, held at the ABC Training Academy in Poway. This full day of safety awareness included special presentations from community leaders and instructors. Attendees chose from a variety of classes including Fall Protection, Asbestos Awareness, Heat Stress.

All Safety Saturday attendees participated in two sessions: Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Distracted Driving. Rocky Herron of the Drug Enforcement Administration discussed the dangers of substance abuse including disturbing new trends such as prescription drug addiction and the growing prevalence of marijuana in schools and on the job. California Highway Patrol officer Jake Sanchez spoke to the group about distracted driving. Officer Sanchez showed videos of car accidents that were a direct result of texting and driving and how reaction time is drastically reduced.

One of the day's highlights was a presentation from Commander Warren LeBeau with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest. He deals daily with the issues of safety on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton job sites and stressed that "safety is about personal awareness and accountability."

The instructors at Safety Saturday donated their time as well as their safety knowledge and expertise to the students who are working daily in the construction industry. This amazing group of people has collectively decades of experience in the field as well as in the classroom.

The UCSD OSHA Training Institute was the event Lunch Sponsor and ABC member United Rentals donated equipment for the boom lift/scissor lift training. Thank you to Starbucks in Poway for donating coffee. Very special thanks to Gould Electric for donating an iPad as well as sending a small crew to help set-up and break-down the event.

The success of Safety Saturday is a direct result of all involved, from instructors to participants to special guests.



ABC San Diego President Scott Crosby and CHP officer Jake Sanchez.

In Memoriam

Mark Allen ■ Tom West ■ Tim Umbarger

Mark Allen, age 53, passed away while sport fishing off the coast of Panama on March 3. He began his career in construction in his hometown of Merced, California, eventually moving to San Diego. For seven years, Mark was employed by Comfort Systems USA and worked on the Terminal 2 Expansion of the San Diego International Airport. He had recently started a new job as Vice President of Operations for County-wide Mechanical Systems in January.

Mark contributed his 20 plus years of heating and air conditioning experience to ABC as a member of the Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Committee since 2006. He attended the 2008 National ABC Craft Championship as an apprenticeship committee representative. Mark volunteered as a Sheet Metal judge for local competitions and frequently helped with setting up for the events. Mark enjoyed many outdoor activities, especially fishing.

Tom West, age 60, died on January 22. Tom became a jour-

neyman plumber after enlisting in the United States Army following high school, where he served as a military police officer in Germany. He began contributing his professional skills as a mentor through ABC after moving to San Diego in 1989. He served as chairman of the Apprenticeship Training

Trust plumbing committee. At the time of his death, Tom was employed by Brian Cox Mechanical as General Foreman of the pipefitting division.

ABC, North County Trade Tech High School, and the construction industry lost a great friend and advocate when Tim Umbarger passed away at his home on November 3, 2013. Tim loved the construction industry and the

career opportunities it offers to young people. After retiring as President of Good & Roberts Construction Company, Tim volunteered as a teacher and mentor for young students at North County Trade Tech and chaired their industry advisory committee. Tim served on the ABC Board of Directors for several years. He was serving as a Trustee for the ABC Training Trust and as a Board Member for North County Trade Tech at the time of his death. Tim was named the ABC Member of the Year in 2009 for his support of the principles of ABC and his service to the association and the industry. A scholarship program has been established at North County Trade Tech in Tim's honor.



ABC San Diego marks the passing of industry leaders and friends over the past year.



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Training Trust**

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