

Local IBEW 684 producing skilled winners

BUSINESS PROFILE

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Everybody loves a winner, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) L.U.

Today, they both work as foremen and run projects for Collins Electric.

“Collins Electrical is proud of the achievement of these two fine men and the IBEW’s apprentices, journeymen and foremen,” says Collins Electric Vice President/Branch Manager Brian Gini.

The annual contest’s categories include written tests, parts identification, residential exercise, industrial wiring drawing, industrial motor control exercise, 1/2 EMT conduit exercise and 3/4 EMT conduit exercise.

It pits the best of each state’s fifth-year apprentices against each other, and the competition is fierce. “I am extremely proud of Jeremiah, Robert and our training program as a whole. These are only two of the hundreds of qualified journeymen and apprentices,” says Powell. “The IBEW and our NECA contractors work very hard to insure that our electrical workers are highly skilled, motivated individuals.

In addition to Collins Electric, other local National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) contractors are Industrial Electric, Castro Electric, Kirkes Mann Electric, Crites Electric, E & M Electric and Sierra Central Electric.

IBEW 684 and the Northern California Chapter of NECA have partnered to offer a rigorous apprenticeship program. Both Nieman and Stutzman completed the Central Valley Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center’s (CVJATC) five-



Above, Adam Jautaikis teaches a third year apprentice class at the training center.



Journeyman electricians (l-r) Bobby Stutzman and Jeremiah Nieman display their Western States Electrical Contest recognition. They both came in first place in three specialized areas of the contest.

year apprenticeship and achieved the highest grade in their classes. “The classes are really wonderful,” says Nieman. “I would definitely recommend them.”

Apprentices attend classes from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 40-hour blocks, a total of five times throughout the year. They are required to have 8,000 hours “on the job training” completed between the scheduled class weeks throughout the five-year apprenticeship. Class subjects cover all aspects of the Electrical Industry including CPR/first aid, safety OSHA10, OHMS law DC (Direct Current) theory, AC (Alternating Current) theory, conduit bending and raceways, underground conduits, wiring methods and devices, transformers and motors, motor controls, program-

mable logic controllers, power quality, fire alarms, variable frequency drives and reduced voltage starters, national electric code, overcurrent protection devices, and NFPA 70E electrical safe work practices.

The training director at CVJATC is Mark Bowden, and the instructor at the center is Adam Jautaikis.

“It is our duty to support the IBEW training programs as it provides for a skilled craftsman that makes it easy

to market our company,” says Collins Electric’s Gini. “Businesses and public entities such as Kaiser Hospital, Modesto City Schools, Cal-Trans, Sutter-Medical, the Catholic Diocese of Stockton, Yosemite Community College District, City of Modesto and the County of Stanislaus desire quality and quantity, and that is what the NECA contractors provide through our ‘working together’ relationship with the IBEW.”



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CVJATC training center instructor Adam Jautaikis explains transformer logistics to (l-r) Kent Brooks and Doyle Rice.