



ON THE LEVEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ABC SAN DIEGO TRAINING TRUST

2008 Craft Championships—San Juan, PR



ABC places very high priority on training the industry's workforce, and considers our students to be the best representatives of our quality training. We pride ourselves as leaders in developing the merit shop construction industry workforce by providing quality training programs that promote

great opportunity.

ABC National will host the 2008 National Craft Championships, March 5-9, 2008, in **San Juan, Puerto Rico**.

Outstanding craft students from across the country will participate in this two day event in one of 14 competitions representing 13 crafts.

The 2007 local Craft Competition is December 1st, here at the ABC Training Academy. The competition

is open to all 3rd and 4th year apprentices and craft trainees in Electrical, Plumbing and Sheet Metal.

Save the date: December 1st, 2007! This year, we'd like our students and families to participate in record numbers. Complimentary lunch is generously sponsored by Bergelectric.

For more information and details on how to qualify, call Tracey Barrett at 858-513-4700, ext. 223.

You can win an All-Expenses paid trip to Puerto Rico for you and a companion!

- ◆ March 5 thru 9, 2008
- ◆ San Juan, Puerto Rico
- ◆ Compete with other apprentices and craft trainees in the Electrical, Plumbing and Sheet Metal crafts
- ◆ Post-Competition Celebration

North County Trade Tech slated to open Fall 2008

ABC Training Trust has been a primary partner in the development of a new construction trades high school. After months of searching, the developers of North County Trade Tech High School have identified several sites for the permanent placement of the construction-trades based four year high school. Trade Tech is officially scheduled for a Fall 2008 grand opening.

Trade Tech will operate grades 9-12, serving 100 ninth grade students in its first year of operation in 2008 and adding one grade level each year until reaching a full capacity of 400 students in the 2011-2012

school year. Trade Tech will serve students who have expressed an interest in entering a building trade profession. The charter school will offer an innovative learning environment designed to engage "hands-on" learners and prepare them with the knowledge and skills necessary for graduation, future success in post-secondary education, high wages, and rewarding employment in the building trades and good community citizens in life.

Trade Tech will offer a highly engaging, academically rigorous, relevant educational program. Standards-based

projects incorporating content knowledge in mathematics, language arts, science, history/social science, and integrated with industry certified standards will provide the learning experiences. This type of learning will help provide skills necessary for success in post-secondary education and apprenticeship training and in the construction industry.

All Trade Tech students will also be exposed to Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Management & Leadership, all centric to sustainable building.

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October Instructor Profile: GARY WOOD



Familiarity. That's the feeling you get when you are in the room with Gary Wood, ABC's very own resident instructor. Somehow his approach is comforting,

especially in an environment in which one can sometimes feel uncomfortable. Gary comes from a broad background of hard work, which began in the U. S. Navy, serving for 5 years as a Dental Technician. Soon after his service ended, he became an Electrical Apprentice, and by 1977 he was a

"ABC's the best kept secret in town. It's a great bonus for the students."



licensed C-10 Contractor specializing in High-Voltage Underground Systems. ABC is fortunate to have had him as an instructor since 1994, and he became an ABC employee in 2001.

Since then, he has been teaching all semesters of the Electrical Apprenticeship program, and currently supervises the online training program as well. "I believe the online training program holds a lot of promise for our students," Gary said. "The students are required to do 24-hours of Saturday labs during the semester, with the remainder of their class time online, making it convenient for students with travel related issues."

Gary's real pleasure comes from seeing his students use their classroom knowledge and apply it to practical skills in the lab. "The lab is the biggest change between ABC's new facility and our old location in Kearny Mesa. My teaching style is to get the students to develop self-confidence, self-support and independence; I like to see them think on their own and get their lab projects to work," Gary states. "This facil-

ity supports that and assists in practical application. I take great pride in seeing what they have learned come in to reality."

Asked what his opinion of ABC's purpose is, he said: "People need to know that ABC is the best kept secret in town! Where else can you get high quality training, a paid job, a great opportunity and college credits all at the same time? This is a real bonus for the students." What about union shops, I asked. "There used to be a place for them; they filled a need at the time. But now, unions have slid into an unethical method of doing business. Their leverage has come more from strong-arm tactics and what the Merit Shop refers to as "Green Mail" than from sincere negotiations. Our philosophy is free enterprise, so if you're approached, do your homework. Get the knowledge you need to make the right decision."

Currently, Gary stays busy with teaching his classes and labs. He is writing an Electrical Laboratory textbook, hoping to have it published in the near future. A San Diego native, he doesn't see himself moving any time soon. Gary holds a BS Degree in Business Management from Christian Heritage College in El Cajon, and a Teaching Credential in Vocational Training. He can be reached at extension 208.

Nicole N. Piner

SDCCD Info—Use Your Resource!

While attending class at ABC, you are receiving college credit through our partnership with City College. At the completion of your coursework with ABC, you will have approximately 24 credits to apply toward an Associate's degree. You will

need 60 units to be awarded an AA degree, so be sure to check with a counselor at City College for those requirements.

In addition, if you ever have any questions about City College or its requirements for other

classes, please call the City College Office of Apprenticeship Training at 619-388-6858.

Of course, you can always talk to Ann Baay, ext. 214, or Tracey Barrett, ext 223, if you ever need more information.



ABC Apprentices graduate from City College.

Understanding PLAs—Not As Complicated As You Think

While completing your coursework here at ABC, you may have heard the term "PLA." Ever wondered what that means? Or why it is used?

A union-only PLA, or Project Labor Agreement, is a contract that requires that the project be awarded only to contractors and sub-contractors who recognize unions as the representatives of the employees on the job, use the union to hire workers, pay union wages and benefits, and obey the unions restrictive rules regarding arbitration, and job classifications.

Why is ABC opposed to PLAs? There are a number of reasons. Politicians on school boards, city councils, county boards of supervisors, and water boards sometimes vote to require contractors to sign a PLA with construction unions in order to work on a public job. Owners of private projects such as hotels and power

plants also sometimes feel they have to sign a PLA in order to get unions to stop getting in the way of their projects.

The PLA generally forces the contractor to use apprentices only from the union programs, not the programs such as ABC. Workers on a job covered by a PLA have their health, pension, and vacation benefits paid to the unions, and unless the workers stay with the union at the end of the job, they never see those benefits again. Workers have to pay union dues and initiation fees which add up to hundreds of dollars, just to work on that one job.

For these reasons, ABC fights PLAs when politicians or private developers start looking at requiring contractors to sign them. You may have seen that ABC has aggressively fought PLAs for the Gaylord Entertainment Bayfront project in Chula Vista, the Sweetwater Union High

School District, and the San Diego County Water Authority. If a new stadium for the San Diego Chargers is built, ABC will oppose a PLA so that you, the ABC apprentice, can work on that stadium.

As a student at ABC, it is important that you understand these issues and develop an informed idea of what they mean.

If you ever have any questions about the position of ABC, or you need information on these issues, please feel free to call Sherry J. Yarbrough at ext. 221 or speak to your employer.

Our gratitude to Kevin Dayton, State Government Affairs Director, ABC California, for his contribution to this story.

DID YOU KNOW...80% of the US construction industry workforce is non-union? It's true!



Trade Tech, Cont. from Page 1

Officials are currently identifying primary partner relationships. Numerous community presentations will be held to educate youth and (their families on the positive opportunities available in the building trades: self-sustaining wages and benefits, professional growth opportunities, post-secondary training and education opportunities and career pathways within the construction trades.

The first Parent and Student Information Workshop and Open House is being held October 16, 2007, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Brengle Terrace Park in the Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Drive in Vista. Parents and students entering 9th grade in 2008, are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will help parents and interested students learn about Trade Tech's educational program, the indus-

try focus and partnerships, as well as meet construction industry leaders from throughout the North County area. Students will learn firsthand about the rewarding careers in the construction trades, the high demand for skilled craftspeople and the multitude of opportunities for professional and personal growth and advancement.

For more information, please call Sherry J. Yarbrough at ext. 211.



The ABC Training Academy went "Hollywood" as the site for a new Trade Tech promotional video.

Above: Two potential Trade Tech students learn how to bend pipe.

Left: Greg Eyer explains how tools work in the ABC lab.

Check us out on
the WEB!

www.abcsd.org

Associated Builders and Contractors, San Diego, is a non-profit organization and construction industry trade association committed to promoting the merit shop philosophy and protecting the rights of free enterprise in San Diego and Imperial counties. Chartered in September 1976 with only 84 members, the Chapter has grown to include specialty contractors, general building contractors, suppliers, associates to the industry and many others.

ABC offers a network from which to learn, grow, and to make a difference. We accomplish this through extensive and thorough education and craft training. Our apprenticeship programs are among the best in the country, as we offer registered apprenticeship and craft training in electrical, electronic systems technician (low-voltage electrical,) plumbing, pipefitting, sheet metal and HVAC. We're currently developing programs in other trades, as well as creating an online delivery system for training.

The ABC San Diego Training Academy and Chapter Headquarters has set a standard in training for merit shop construction. Here is where ABC trains the future merit shop leaders of America! We have the best instructors, contractors and students in our program, so we believe the San Diego chapter membership represents the best our industry has to offer.

For more information about the ABC San Diego Training Trust, please call Nicole N. Piner, Director of Communications and Workforce Development, 858-513-4700, ext. 225.

*QUOTE OF
THE MONTH:
PEOPLE
FORGET HOW
FAST YOU DID
A JOB, BUT
THEY WILL
ALWAYS
REMEMBER
HOW WELL
YOU DID IT.
HOWARD
NEWTON*

Rules and Regs Reminder

The California Division of Apprenticeship Standards requires that apprentices submit a detailed record of their On-The-Job Training hours. OJT hours are due on or before the 20th of every month. There is no grace period.

All months must be accounted for in your OJT record. You cannot skip turning in OJT hours for any month because it appears in the database as a missing month. **TURN IN ZERO HOURS IF YOU WERE UNEMPLOYED OR NOT WORKING.**

The OJT hours serve as your documentation for your upgrade to the next level of apprenticeship for pay and promotion purposes. They also serve as proof of the actual training you have received.

Being delinquent with your OJT hours can result in many penalties, not the least of which is being called before your committee or being terminated from the program.

Please call Ann Baay, Student Services Administrator, at extension 214 with any questions or concerns.

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