



What The Electrical Industry Offers: Education, Opportunity and Great Careers!

Usually, when a member of the NECA-IBEW team explains opportunities in the organized electrical construction industry to someone who's not previously heard about them, we get the same reaction:

Disbelief.

People enrolled in, and paying for, specialized job training almost can't understand us when we tell them that a NECA-IBEW apprenticeship—comprising on-the-job and classroom training—is FREE. It sounds funny, *but we often have to repeat this!*

"Earn while you learn" isn't a slogan for us, but a tried-and-true method of creating skilled electrical professionals. Over the past 60-plus years, we have taken raw ability, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn on the part of more than 300,000 Americans—and turned them into electrical journeymen!

Parents find it hard to believe that our apprentices can earn college credits at the same time. Yet our programs enable apprentices to earn as many as 55 credits...*yes, while adding a skill and regular pay!*

Those with a negative attitude towards "construction" initially reject our explanation of what electrical professionals do. Our training programs train electricians to use algebra, teach them how to work safely and install vital electrical systems, and also train others to be telecom technicians, powerline specialists, and residential wiremen.

Younger people suspect "bait and switch" tactics when IBEW and NECA representatives

talk about the earnings of electrical journeymen—graduates of our five-year apprenticeship program. In some places, wages in a 2,000-hour work year are in the \$60,000 or higher range (see our advertising aimed toward high school students on pages 19, 21, and 23).

This special issue of *The Quality Connection*—the NECA-IBEW magazine—is designed to bring up-to-speed those not well-acquainted with the electrical industry's apprenticeship and training efforts. In the pages that follow, you will find:

- Articles on what's going on in local training programs in seven locations;
- Statistics—aggregated nationally—on how we've ramped up our training efforts in the past decade.
- Samples of our advertising. Much of it is targeting toward ultimate buyers of electrical services, including building owners, industrial concerns, and utility companies.
- Information on the industry's history, our dedication to safety, and much more.

What's the point? If you're a member of the IBEW & NECA team, you can use this issue of your magazine as a reference for the many benefits your industry offers.

And: If you—the reader—are someone not familiar with the education, apprenticeship, and training benefits offered by the organized electrical construction industry, you'll learn a great deal in the pages that follow. ■