



TRAINING news

UA Education and Training Department

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Message from James Pavesic Director of Education and Training



I want to begin by welcoming our newest Training Specialist, Mike Galfano, who joined our team in the Education and Training Department

on March 17th. Mike is a 31-year member of Pipefitters Local 597, Chicago, IL, and has 19 years of experience teaching Building Trades classes. He graduated from ITP in 2008, and from 2009 to 2012, Mike worked as an ITP rigging instructor. He has vast experience with the International Apprenticeship Contest (INAC) having worked as the journeyman pipefitter helper from 2013 to 2018. Mike's resume records numerous certifications, including Industrial Rigging Instructor/Administrator; Pipefitter Master Star; OSHA Authorized

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Trainer; OSHA 7110 Safe Bolting Qualification; Medical Gas: 6010 Installer; and Medical Gas: ASSE 6050 Instructor.

In our department, Mike will oversee pipefitting training initiatives. He has taken over the responsibilities of the UA Bookstore for the International Pipe Trades Joint Training Committee, working as the Administrator. He will sit on the EPRI Steering Committee and NMAP Steering Committee and will be a UA Representative for the International Apprenticeship Con-

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the UA Education and Training Department is to equip United Association locals with educational resources for developing the skills of their apprentices and journeypersons. By thus facilitating the training needs of the membership, we maximize their employability and prepare them for changes in the industry. We are committed to making training opportunities available across North America, allowing members to acquire new skills and remain competitive in the industry regardless of geography. In this way, we are determined to meet the needs of the piping industry and enhance employment opportunities for our members, while remaining fiscally responsible to the beneficiaries of the fund.



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test. Mike will also work on curriculum development for the department. I feel that Mike has already made a valuable impact in our department and look forward to working with him going forward.

We are one month away from the 66th Instructor Training Program (ITP), scheduled for August 10-16, with our graduation ceremony and INAC awards presentation set for Thursday, August 15. This year will be our 30th year that the ITP has been held at Washtenaw Community College (WCC), and at this time, we have 2,000-plus bookings, and registration is still going strong with 165 ITP instructors set to graduate and over 400 first-time students recorded. My immediate concern is that several larger local unions have not sent in their registrations yet, and classes are filling up quickly, if not already full, so please be diligent with your registrations. I don't have to remind you all just how important this program is in order to keep our programs and instructors relevant with all of the changes going on in our industry.

Along with our professional, core, technology, and trades-related courses, we are proud to offer the following new or revised classes. These classes include: Creating Future Leaders and Supporting Apprenticeship Leadership Committees-2104; Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER)-2162; NFPA® 70E® Electrical Safety Train-the-Trainer-2163 (revised); Intermediate Computer Skills for the Trade Teacher-3008; Water Quality Plumbing-4050; HVACR Air and Hydronic System Design-6052; Water Quality Mechanical-6080; Steam Systems-6081; Water Quality Fire Protection-7051; Internal and External Communication for Training Directors-9009; UA Canada Training Director/Coordinator Program-9105; and UA Canada and CWBi Acorn Welding Program-9106.

Also, don't forget our industrial classes such as Rigging, Valve, Crane, and Medical Gas. Safety courses that are worth noting are NFPA 70E, OSHA, Pressure Testing, Trenching, Fall Protection, Safe Bolting, to name just a few. Technology courses that are often popular include Introduction to Teaching Online Using Blackboard™ LMS; Preparing for Digital Literacy; Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) Level 2; Autodesk® Fabrication CADmep™, and Autodesk® Revit® MEP.

Lastly, a few reminders to make your week at ITP more successful. Training Directors/Coordinators, please sign up your instructors for Online Learning Resources (OLR), so they can have access to all of their teaching resources.

- To sign up your instructors for the OLR, access the OLR online portal and then your e-Learning resources. You will find our online Instructor Resource Library (IRL), Student Resource Library (SRL), and the gateway to Washtenaw Community College's Blackboard™ system.

ITP students should be reminded to download the UA mobile app. Utilizing the app, they can view their schedule, see a copy of the campus map, have access to event information, and so much more. To download the UA mobile app, go to the "App Store" or "Google Play Store," search for United Association, and then select "Install/Get" to download.

We look forward to another successful year for ITP and the International Apprenticeship Contest. I look forward to seeing you all there! ■

Technology and How We Are Not Embracing Change

Submitted by Ray Lemieux, UA Training Specialist

This past month, I was fortunate enough to attend a Welding Educators Conference and a subject was presented about welding technology and the advancements that have taken place. The question presented to the 150 welding educators in attendance was, "Who in this room has the Miller Pipework or Lincoln Power Wave machines to teach STT or RMD and/or advanced waveform techniques of Pulse welding?" To my surprise, over 90 percent in the room raised their hands in the air, acknowledging that their schools or training centres had this equipment at their disposal. The presenter at the time then asked, "How many in the room are incorporating this technology in the classroom?" When the audience raised their hands this time, maybe a handful raised their hands acknowledging that they do some training on this equipment. When I saw this response from the educators in the room, I thought that the "lack of embracing technology mentality" is still very prevalent in all parts of North America.

I would like to address and challenge all local unions, members, and our contractors to always think outside the box and to consistently review and update processes they use to secure and complete work. We must address how we develop apprentices and understand what our obligation really is to our trade. If we continue to say, "This is what we have always

done,” we will lose ground to our competition. As I think about how this can relate to our classrooms, worksites, and everyday life, the most relevant thought that comes to mind is that change is inevitable, and the sooner we can embrace the use of technology in our everyday life, the easier it will be to adapt to the changes which are happening around us every day.

When I think back about when I attended ITP week for the very first time, I remember that I was teaching welding at my local union and really couldn't grasp, or was reluctant to embrace, what was being asked of me in our mandatory professional courses. As welding instructors, I hear the same comment all the time, “We teach practical training in the booth, what will all this ‘mumble jumble’ do for me or my students?” Now, more than ever, taking responsibility to update our skills and/or our knowledge is of the essence. Embracing technology and updating classroom materials and resources are our responsibility. If our shops, training centres, or worksites are disorganized, we need to have better structure! All the different elements and courses are so very relevant in our profession as a trades person, both personally and professionally. I am sure that the welding instructors who attend Ann Arbor still feel the same way I did over 10 years ago. This thought process is totally wrong and misunderstood. As I mentioned above, we are creatures of habit, but if the next generation is going to succeed, we must continue to lead the way and take whatever steps are necessary in order to stay relevant regarding progression and advancements. When we look at computers, we need to realize that there are still many who do not fully utilize or understand their operation. These devices have been around for a long time now and are not going away. Life gets very busy, but it is totally our responsibility to learn and understand their uses and incorporate these tools in everything we do.

Times are ever changing—sometimes at a pace that far exceeds our capabilities and knowledge. If you are a person who falls into one of the categories I've mentioned above, my challenge to you is to step up and embrace the use of technology and incorporate the skills and knowledge you have picked up to continue to evolve. Don't be like the group of educators who have really nice useful equipment that sits in the corner of their facilities, but never gets turned on due to the lack of knowledge or interest in learning the advantages it may provide. ■

Training Today for the Future of Tomorrow

Submitted by Randall Gandy, UA Training Specialist



It is apparent that today, training upcoming welders is not like it was 20, 10, or even five years ago. With the high demand for qualified skilled welders, paired with the methods in which production welds are being tested, an increased pressure is being placed on our training schools and the manner in which we are training students. Over the past several years, members of the UA Education and Training Department staff have made several on-site investigations involving welding problems specifically related to UA member welders. After thoroughly reviewing the issues of note it was determined that a significant contributor to the welding problems was the apparent lack of proficiency of the UA welders involved. Whether this was due to inexperience or inadequate training, this lack of proficiency, not only casts dispersions on our UA Welder Certification program, but it also puts our ability to provide competent welders to industrial projects in an extremely poor light. After speaking with various contractors, we believe that they lack confidence in the quality of welders the current welder training and certification system is producing.

First and foremost, local unions need to conduct an assessment of current industrial projects in their jurisdiction that are employing UA welders. Typical areas of concern are high percentages of welders dispatched to the project failing the site gate tests, high rejection rates of production welds on site, and a high turnover of welders working at the project. Increases noted in these areas need to receive attention to correct matters as early as possible in the project before they turn into more serious situations that are long past the time for any effective measures to reverse the problem. It is equally important to be involved in future projects. In order to determine the welding needs specific to that project, initial project planning meetings need to be held with site project representatives. Based on information attained, it will be possible to provide welders with the necessary skills that the job requires. Our welders must demonstrate proficiency on the piping materials and joint configurations that they will be required to weld on the jobsite.

Second of all, the quality of welds being allowed to pass during certification testing needs to be in line with the standards that are expected in the field. There have been too many instances where welders have been allowed to pass the

UA weld test at a local union testing facility even though the quality of their welds was substandard, and the techniques being used were improper. We have inspected far too many gate test welds that were visually unacceptable. This suggests a lack of thoroughness on the part of the local facility that certified the welders. If the testing facility would have held the welders to a higher standard to begin with, many of these welding problems could have been prevented.

The UA has and always will be there for its members and local unions. Remember, you are not alone in resolving this situation. The UA has the resources available and is ready, willing, and able to help you in taking the necessary steps to improve matters. It's up to all of us to ensure the proficiency and industry acceptance of our welders.

In conclusion, we need to be able to support the contractors by supplying them with quality craftsmen and women. In order to accomplish this, we must make available the proper training necessary to meet the industry's demands. We also must ensure that the certification standards are more uniform from one local to another. It is imperative that we do not forget to teach the basics. In an era that has seen much advancement in welding technology, we must also remember the core concepts that drive the profession. ■

Latest in Training

Submitted by Randall Gandy, UA Training Specialist

The UA Education and Training Department is pleased to announce we have been working in conjunction with Local Union 597 and American Technical Publisher in the development of "Basic Welding Fundamental Videos." We are hoping to release phase one in December 2019. These videos will provide welding instructors with the necessary training aids to train students on safe work practices, the use of proper personal equipment, and basic principles of welding (i.e. initiate the arc, electrode angle and travel speed, difference between the weld pool and slag, as well as differences in coupon position and bevel designs). Videos will result in training students faster to find discrepancies in their techniques, as well as giving you the opportunity to train multiple students at one time in lieu of the standard practice of one-on-one in a weld booth.



With the high demand for orbital tube welders in our industry and the need to stay current with the most advanced in technology, the Orbitalum SmartWelder Kit by E.H. Wachs is now available in the ITF Grant catalog.

Welding Training Modules are now available on the WCC Blackboard™ website. These comprehensive

welding instructional training modules will assist local union instructors with course materials needed to facilitate specific welding skills allowing welders a more expedient transition to the jobsite. Contingent on contractors' requests, modules are broken out into multiple categories, ranging from entry level to advanced welding processes, proper set up and safe operation of various types of pipe joint end preparation equipment, along with fit-up alignment clamps. UA instructors will be able to demonstrate arc welding techniques and practical applications for developing welder training programs specific to our industry.

Instructors wishing to gain access can do so by completing a "Blackboard™ Course Request Form." This form can be obtained from Arista Metler (arista@wccnet.edu) at Washtenaw Community College (WCC). ■

Brazing Certification for the HVACR Industry

Submitted by Richard Benkowski, UA Training Specialist

With today's new alternative refrigerants operating at higher pressures, it is essential to ensure a leak-free system by installing properly prepared, quality, sound joints. Designed and intended to serve as a baseline measure of the Brazer's ability to produce sound joints. NITC announces a new braze certification for the HVACR industry. The NITC ASME IX R78 Braze Certifica-



ASME

tion will qualify individuals for brazing on 1/8-inch through 1 1/8-inch ACR tubing. NITC's HVACR Braze is qualified for compliance with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Code, Section IX and the ASME B315 Standard for Refrigeration and Components.

"National ITC Corporation (NITC) has been certifying Brazers for the Medical Gas and Refrigeration Piping Industry since the mid 1990s. This new HVACR Braze Certification has been specifically developed to meet the demands of the evolving Industry."
-DJ Berger, NITC Southern Regional Representative

Anyone familiar with the variable volume, variable flow refrigerant systems will understand the need for this certification. This is an applied product which requires hundreds and sometimes thousands of feet of pipe connected to multiple evaporators throughout the building. To that end, manufacturers of these systems will be including this requirement into their product specifications. This enhancement separates UA signatory contractors on bid day. More work will be awarded for installation by UA members who meet this qualification. The good news is that UA members are already performing at this level. The healthcare industry has benefited greatly by a similar application for medical gas piping.

Daikin, already a valued training partner, is the first to participate. Daikin Manager of Contractor Development Jeff Bledsoe understands the value of properly trained installation mechanics. "At Daikin, we have a responsibility to our customers and to the HVAC industry to share our experiences and expertise through structured training programs developed specifically for HVAC installers. Working with industry organizations like the UA and NITC is an integral part of fulfilling that duty," said Bledsoe.

Local 250 is also planning to certify instructors very soon. Luis Reyes, Local 250 Director of Training, said, "[He] feels it is important that we create a standard and be at the forefront in this process to ensure quality craftsmanship."

Another challenge on the HVACR horizon will be the adoption of flammable refrigerants into residential and commercial systems. Classified in the industry as "A2L," this group includes chemicals such as propane. Generally speaking, flammability of a refrigerant is its ability to burn or ignite causing fire or combustion. The degree of difficulty required to cause the combustion of a substance is quantified through fire testing and dependent on a number of parameters. In practice, implementation of the new NITC certification elevates the integrity of all piped systems and promotes public health and safety. For more information, contact DJ Berger at NITC to begin certifying your local members to a higher standard! ■

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- **Increased Employment Opportunity**
- **Portable Certification able to be accepted by potential Employers**
- **May be incorporated into any existing Curriculum**
- **Exit point for validating training**



Engineers Are in the Building!

Submitted by Richard Benkowski, UA Training Specialist

Consulting engineering is a professional service that provides independent expertise in engineering, science, and related areas to governments, industries, developers, and construction firms. Most consulting engineering services are offered through consulting engineering companies, but are also frequently offered by sole practitioners. Consulting engineering companies can range in size from a partnership of two people to multinational corporations with tens of thousands of employees in offices worldwide.

Consultants play an important role in the process of building construction. Whatever the mechanical engineer can envision, UA craftsmen and women can build! So, it is important for the engineering community to understand the jobsite contribution made by a properly trained journey worker.

Why not invite them into the local training center to experience firsthand the commitment to excellence by the United Association? Recently, two locals did just that. UA Local 486 and UA Local 449 hosted events to form partnerships with the engineering communities in Baltimore and Pittsburgh.



Al Clinedinst, Training Director of Local 486, set up shop for the engineers to experience firsthand the tasks and skill sets of the UA member. According to Brother Clinedinst, "We have always wanted the engineers to experience the skills needed to install the systems they design. One engineer was so proud of her accomplishment that she left with her no-hub project to proudly display on her office wall." Various activities and work stations were arranged for participants to interact in a jobsite pipe-joining exercise. Soldering, brazing, and press fitting were just a few of the applications the engineers were challenged with.

Pictured here are a few of the participants seeing and feeling firsthand the incredible skills learned at UA Local 486. Thanks for the idea, Al!

Recently at Local 449, Training Director Brad Tisdale and Organizer Nick Kappas teamed up to create a classroom opportunity for consulting engineers to earn Personal Development Hours (PDH) to help satisfy P.E. credentialing maintenance criteria. The classes were offered by manufacturers during an HVAC open house at the training center.

Nick Kappas connected with the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to promote interest in the event. Nick relates that the local consultants are no stranger to the Steamfitter Technology Center, "This is the second open house at which LU 449 has offered courses for the consultants to participate in. Additionally, in the fall of 2018, the Pittsburgh ASHRAE Chapter held its monthly meeting at the training center."

Among the courses offered were Hot Water Heating Systems, ECM Pumping Technology, VRF, Hybrid Boilers, Emerging Chiller Technology, and Steam Traps. Rich Brown, P.E. with Rabe Environmental, said, "The variety of classes offered were practical subjects which are useful and relevant in the industry."

In total, 50 consultants attended the HVAC open house and approximately 45 engineers received PDHs in the classrooms. Brad Tisdale received positive feedback, "The biggest benefit was connecting the engineers to witness firsthand the quality of training. This type of event promotes a higher comfort level when working with UA contractors and members."

This type of outreach in Baltimore and Pittsburgh demonstrates a forward and aggressive approach to informing specifying engineers in the construction industry about the quality work delivered by UA members every day. Follow these examples, connect with the consulting engineers in your community and invite them into the building! ■



ASSE Plans ICRA Recertification at ITP

If you participated in the Infection Control Risk Assessment pilot in 2015 or in the launch of the program in August of 2016 and are currently certified in Infection Control (ICRA) by ASSE International, your certification has expired as of May 31, 2019. It is now time to renew your certification.



A 12000 Recertification course will be held on Registration Day, August 10th, at UA ITP in Ann Arbor, MI. This course will not interfere with other classes that you are taking or teaching at ITP. Your training coordinator must register you for the course with the UA Education and Training Department.



If you are not taking other classes at ITP this summer and wish to attend this course only, please email Cathy Merkel at cathym@uanet.org and provide your name, local, UA ID, phone number, and cell phone.

The ASSE guidelines for the Infection Control for Construction and Maintenance Personnel Certification states that you must take a minimum of a three-hour review course followed by a 75-question written examination.

Virtual Reality in Your Training Center

Submitted by Lauren Friedman, Instructional Technology Coordinator

Do you want to train your apprentices using Virtual Reality, but don't know where to start?

The ITF is proud to announce a new item added to our Grant list this summer: The Virtual Reality Library (VRL) Kit. The VRL Kit comes with a desktop or laptop computer, a VR headset,

sensors, mounting hardware, and detailed directions so you can start using VR today.

On the computer, you will also find the ITF Virtual Reality Library, a piece of software that allows you to download, update, and run Virtual Reality applications which have been created by the ITF. Current kits come with a Trenching Simulation and a Safety Simulation, and we have more experiences planned in the future.

Virtual Reality has been around since the 1970s, when NASA was creating navigable virtual worlds, but it has mostly been used in games and recreation. You might remember products

like Nintendo's Virtual Boy or the Sega VR headset in the '90s. Overall, these products couldn't live up to consumer expectations (not helped by movies like *Tron* and *Lawnmower Man* which promised experiences that were not possible in the real world) and they failed, sending VR into a slump.

In the 2010s, however, we have entered a Virtual Reality Renaissance. Products like the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive have made high quality, mass-market virtual experiences a reality. While we're still a ways away from what you see in the movies, it is still possible to give apprentices an immersive, innovative experience in the safety of your training center.

In the Trenching App, an apprentice finds themselves on the jobsite, in front of a trench. They enter the trench to help their virtual partner lay pipe when the worst occurs—a trench collapse. No one is hurt, of course, but the apprentice can then review and rewind the collapse before moving on to instructor led activities to make sure they know how to safely work in a trench—from gas testing and PPE to inspecting a trench box and making repairs.

In the Safety App, an apprentice is taken to a machine room, and led through a series of activities to ensure their workspace is safe. They'll be taken onto a ladder to install a hanger, asked to check if a lift path is clear, and shown how to safely deenergize and replace a fuse in a three phase disconnect.

All of this is towards one goal—ensuring that apprentices can identify a dangerous situation before they are injured by it. By putting them in virtual danger, we make sure that when they are faced with the real thing, they know how to manage the risk.

Many instructors are worried that they will be faced with

the VR setup and freeze, not knowing how to connect the system and looking stupid in front of their students. To combat that, we have provided step-by-step directions, as well as color-coded cords to make sure that your setup goes as smoothly as possible.



The largest issue with using VR in teaching is the exact how—how does one use VR in an effective and informative way? The limitation most people hit first is that only one student can go into VR at a time. Most people try to imagine 14 people and one VR setup and come back with one person in the rig, three people watching, and 10 people counting ceiling tiles.

When teaching with the scenarios, consider hooking the VR computer up to a projector. By doing this you invite the observers into the experience, and you can enhance their participation with worksheets or parallel activities. If you choose to go that route, think of VR as a small group

activity—much like you'd use a virtual welder, you will have more buy-in in a smaller group, while the rest of the class does another activity, before cycling them through.

Virtual Reality has the potential to change the way we train; allowing apprentices to make dangerous and costly mistakes in a safe environment is important for their development, and

doing it in VR is a great way to do it.

To learn more, contact Lauren Friedman at lfriedman@uanet.org or 410-269-2000 x5063 or visit the tech booth during registration day at the Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor. ■





UA Weld Training & Testing Trailer



Dear Local 250,

I am writing you this letter in appreciation of the support the UA has provided Kiewit's Huntington Beach and Alamitos projects with the welding training facility trailer. The UA welding trailer was a huge asset to the success of both projects for training and developing UA welders.

The Huntington Beach and Alamitos projects are two new 7FA.05 combined cycle (2-on-1) power plant projects in Huntington Beach and Long Beach, California, respectively. AES is the client for both facilities and has contracted Kiewit Power Constructors Co. as the Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) provider. Each project will bring 650MW of clean and reliable new power to the community. Huntington Beach started June 1, 2017, with a scheduled completion of March 1, 2020; Alamitos started July 1, 2017, and is scheduled to be completed on April 1, 2020. Both projects are ahead of schedule and on budget.

The engineered equipment that was constructed on each site includes:

- (2) GE-7FA.05 Combustion Turbine Generators (CTGs)
- (2) VOGT-Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs)
- (1) SIEMENS-Steam Turbine Generator (STG)
- (1) B&W SPIG-35 Cell Air Cooled Condenser (ACC)

With the use of the training facility, our projects trained and developed 137 welders from 13 different locals across the country. These welders received additional training with the SMAW, TIG and FCAW processes—with FCAW and RMD welding as a focus. This additional training and testing helped the welders deliver strong productivity and quality results.

The quantities our UA members accomplished on both projects include:

- UG Pipe Handle = 87,435 LF
- UG Welding = 3,343 DI
- AG LB Handle = 72,198 LF
- AG Welding = 32,520 DI
- AG Supports = 4,013 EA
- AG SB Install = 74,408 LF
- Steam Duct Welding = 9,903 LF

The quality and craftsmanship of our UA members' welds are evident in the results of our NDE records. Between both projects, there have been over 1,300 volumetric NDE tests performed with only a 2% rejection rate.

We greatly appreciate our partnership with the UA, which has been fundamental to our success on these two important projects in California. The support we've received in training and developing our welders has been invaluable—and reaffirms the value of shared goals and collaboration. We look forward to partnering again with the UA on future opportunities.

Sincerely,

Brock Skarsgard
Project Manager, Alamitos Energy Center

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