



# APPRENTICESHIP WORKS

ISSUE NO. 29 | FALL 2019

## SHARE THE BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP

Know someone interested in becoming an apprentice? Or an employer who wants to start an apprenticeship program? Information and resources are available at [apprenticeshipmn.com](http://apprenticeshipmn.com).

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Join Apprenticeship Minnesota for a celebration of registered apprenticeship in Minnesota during National Apprenticeship Week, Nov. 11 to 15, 2019.

Events are scheduled throughout Minnesota and include employers, apprentices, labor, educators, community-based organizations and local governments. Participants will celebrate how registered apprenticeship is helping build the next generation of highly skilled workers. Current registered apprenticeship programs will share their success stories and discuss how the apprenticeship model can be adapted to many industries for employers of all sizes. Apprentices will share how their training prepared them for careers in growing industries.

The week will be educational, informative and fun. The panelists and featured presenters represent a variety of industries including construction, utilities, healthcare, transportation, IT agriculture, representatives from the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs, community-based organizations and registered apprentices.

Today there are more than 12,000 apprentices training in nearly 200 registered programs in Minnesota and apprenticeship continues to expand.

## FEATURED STORIES



**2 LOCAL 49 MEMBER TRADES IN AN OFFICE FOR A CAREER AS AN OPERATING ENGINEER**



**3 SIX APPRENTICES GRADUATE FROM CARPENTERS TRAINING INSTITUTE**





## LOCAL 49 MEMBER TRADES IN AN OFFICE FOR A CAREER AS AN OPERATING ENGINEER

From the office to the outdoors – Local 49 member April Lee left her office job at United Health Group last year to pursue a career as an operating engineer.

Lee worked for United Health Group for 10 years before leaving and credits her husband, who is a member of IUOE Local 232, for encouraging her to switch professions.

“My husband is always talking highly about unions and really sees the value in them,” Lee explained.

**“I WAS GETTING TIRED OF MY JOB AND ONE DAY AS I WAS DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD AND SAW A JOB SITE AND THOUGHT, I COULD BE AN OPERATING ENGINEER. IT LOOKS A LOT MORE FUN AND CHALLENGING.”**

Lee started inquiring about becoming a member of Local 49 and was eventually hired on by Kramer North America as a crane oiler. “I was just so in awe of the crane and the functionality of it, and of the operators themselves, how effortless they look,” Lee said. “I know it takes more work than they make it look, so I just really wanted to pursue cranes as a career after I spent the summer around them.”

Now that Lee has been a member of Local 49 for a year, she says that there is no comparison between her previous job and being an operator.

Read full story at [local49training.org/april-lee/](http://local49training.org/april-lee/)



**Construct Tomorrow provides high school students a hands-on exploration of careers and opportunities available to them in the construction and building trades.**

Organizers host events throughout Minnesota to promote the value of the construction and building trade unions. In addition, the events also share information for families, educators and communities about the benefits of registered apprenticeships as a premier post-secondary career pathway.

Construct Tomorrow events for the 2019-20 school year:

**Oct. 3 and 4, 2019**

St. Paul/South metro -- Boy Scout Base Camp

**Oct. 23, 2019**

Rochester -- Mayo Civic Center

**Nov. 20, 2019**

Mankato -- Verizon Center

**January 2020**

Minneapolis -- Location to be determined

**January 2020**

St. Cloud -- Location to be determined

**Feb. 20, 2020**

Hinckley -- Hinckley Grand Casino Ballroom

**Feb. 25 and 26, 2020**

Duluth -- Duluth Convention Center (DECC)

**March 2020**

Moorhead -- Location to be determined

Learn more about Construct Tomorrow at [constructtomorrow.org](http://constructtomorrow.org) or contact [info@constructtomorrow.org](mailto:info@constructtomorrow.org).

## SIX APPRENTICES GRADUATE FROM CARPENTERS TRAINING INSTITUTE

Six graduates of a pre-apprenticeship program were recognized at a ceremony hosted at the Carpenters Training Institute in St. Paul on Aug. 30, 2019. The graduates had completed a pathway program that introduced them to a career in carpentry with experiential training in jobsite readiness, safety, working with tools, layout, construction techniques and employer expectations.



Recent Graduates of the Carpenters' APEX Construction Career Readiness Training Program.

More than 100 participants have completed the Carpenters Training Institute's construction readiness program with many participants continuing their learning through a registered apprenticeship program.

Pre-apprenticeship funding is made possible through Apprenticeship Minnesota's Apex Initiative and the U.S. Department of Labor. The Apex Initiative seeks to facilitate and promote greater diversity in registered apprenticeship to open the doors of economic advancement for women and communities of color who historically are underrepresented in apprenticeship.

**ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON ... ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE IN MINNESOTA?**



You can check to see if you are registered to vote in Minnesota at [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us)

You can register to vote at [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote](https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote).

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

A grant offered through Apprenticeship Minnesota is helping expand existing career opportunity exploration opportunities for students at White Bear Lake Area Schools.

White Bear Lake Career Pathways show students the many ways they can enter the workforce after graduation. Students can participate in listening sessions, job shadows, job-site tours and paid internships.

Pathways organizers recently received an APEX grant from Apprenticeship Minnesota and students interested in learning more about the skilled trades and apprenticeship opportunities can participate in Apprentice for a Day events and other pre-apprentice activities. In addition to the APEX Career Readiness and Exploration grant, organizers have partnered with Laborers' International Union of North America and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Students experience a variety of hands-on activities, interact with current apprentices and learn how to get involved once they graduate high school.

Read more about the school's Career Pathways program at <https://wblahs.isd624.org/academics/career-pathways>.

## MINNESOTA BUILDING TRADES' 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

Nancy Leppink, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), and John Aiken, director of Labor Standards and Apprenticeship at DLI, took part in the Minnesota Building Trades' 73rd Annual Convention on July 25, 2019, in Brainerd. During the event, Leppink addressed the attendees and Aiken participated in a panel discussion about registered apprenticeship.





+



**Karen Organization  
of Minnesota**

## **ROSEVILLE ADULT LEARNING CENTER PARTNERS WITH KAREN ORGANIZATION FOR CAREER READINESS TRAINING**

A partnership between the Roseville Adult Learning Center and the Karen Organization of Minnesota is helping to get people ready for apprenticeships.

The Apprenticeship and Manufacturing Ready (AMR) program is a free career readiness training for those interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing or a registered apprenticeship in building and construction trades. During the program, participants are introduced to these career pathways through both classroom and hands-on learning, all while improving their literacy and language skills to be job-ready.

In summer 2019, participants in the program visited four apprenticeship training centers. During these visits, participants learned more about each trade through hands-on experiences. AMR participants were also able to tour a 35W construction project in Minneapolis. Recently, two graduates of the program were hired as apprentice painters and will begin their classroom instruction with the Finishing Trades Institute this fall.

For more information visit [mnkaren.org](http://mnkaren.org), or contact Sara Johnson at [sjohnson@mnkaren.org](mailto:sjohnson@mnkaren.org) or Rebekah Hanson at [rhanson@mnkaren.org](mailto:rhanson@mnkaren.org).

---

## **QUICK LINKS**

### **RECENT CONSTRUCTION CLASS GRADUATES MOSTLY WOMEN IN HERMANTOWN**

[duluthnewstribune.com/incoming/4661161-Recent-construction-class-graduates-mostly-women-in-Hermantown](http://duluthnewstribune.com/incoming/4661161-Recent-construction-class-graduates-mostly-women-in-Hermantown)

### **LEGACY PROGRAM PREPARES YOUNG MEN FOR ELECTRICAL LINEMAN CAREER: "IT'S MORE THAN JUST A JOB"**

[greatjobsmn.com/legacy-program-prepares-young-men-for-electrical-lineman-career-its-more-than-just-a-job/](http://greatjobsmn.com/legacy-program-prepares-young-men-for-electrical-lineman-career-its-more-than-just-a-job/)



MINNESOTA STATE APPROVING AGENCY

# SAA

Approving Minnesota's Job Training Programs for the GI Bill®

## **G.I. BILL BENEFITS CAN BE USED FOR APPRENTICESHIP COSTS**

In addition to helping with costs related to attending college, G.I. Bill benefits can also be used while training at an apprenticeship or other on-the-job training.

If you receive Veterans Administration (VA) benefits and are in training, or are an employer looking to hire veterans or support the one's you've already hired that are in training, contact the Minnesota State Approving Agency (SAA).

Once approved, active-duty veterans, those currently serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and other eligible beneficiaries may be eligible to receive their education benefits while in training.

For example, an active duty veteran with post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits could receive up to an additional \$1,647 a month for a housing allowance in addition to their base pay. An active member of the National Guard may be eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill—Selected Reserve and receive up to \$294 each month.

Programs approved by the SAA for federal education benefits are also eligible for the Minnesota G.I. Bill, which pays veterans and employers during OJT/apprenticeship training in addition to federal benefits.

Institutions approved for V.A. education benefits can attract and support veterans by facilitating the benefits they have earned, while also drawing on their military experience and discipline.

For help with questions, contact Ed Godfrey at the Minnesota SAA at 651-201-8257 or [edward.godfrey@state.mn.us](mailto:edward.godfrey@state.mn.us).

# MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL SPRINKLER FITTERS, LOCAL 417, CELEBRATES A NEW TRAINING CENTER

Local 417 hosted an open house to celebrate its new 27,200 square-foot training center in Shoreview on July 11, 2019.

The new center includes expanded shop and classroom space where instructors offer their hands-on approach to apprentice training. The shop area is equipped for specialty skill training of pipe threading and grooving, soldering, brazing, welding and more.

The new center allows the union to expand its apprentice and journeyworker training as well as keep-up with new technology.

The open house was a great celebration of the commitment Local 417 makes to their members.

Scenes from Local 417's open house July 11, clockwise from top-left: Business Manager Trinidad Uribe and Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin cut the ribbon on the union's new training center, as (L to R) Business Agent Craig Bistodeau, Training Director Brad Hopping, Minnesota Pipe Trades Association President David Ybarra and Sen. Jason Isaacson, whose district includes the facility, looked on; the National Fire Sprinkler Association's burn trailer demonstrated the importance of union Sprinkler Fitters' work; Pipe Trades leaders paused for a photo with St. Paul Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Secretary Don Mullin (L), St. Paul Regional Labor Federation President Bobby Kasper (third from right) and Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation President Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou; Uribe addressed members, labor leaders and lawmakers who attended the open house. Union Advocate photos



## MINNESOTA APPRENTICESHIP BY-THE-NUMBERS

	July	August	September
<b>Sponsor Information</b>			
Active Sponsor	195	199	196
New Sponsors	0	8	1
New Occupations	0	6	6
<b>Apprentice Information</b>			
Total all Apprentices	12,384	12,556	12,463
Females	902	915	894
Minorities	2,571	2,633	2,606
Veterans	913	933	929
New Apprentices	594	490	328
Graduations	117	145	103
<b>Services to sponsors and apprentices</b>			
Information Calls	177	162	156
Community Outreach	9	11	37
Technical Visits	8	9	7
Prospective Sponsors	9	2	6

# EVENTS



## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The National Apprenticeship Week schedule kicks off with a speed networking event for apprenticeship programs, community-based groups and educators in Rochester, followed by a career fair and panel discussion at the Anoka Career Force Center, a tour of an apprentice training center, and a panel discussion and networking event for Minneapolis educators at Iron Workers Local 512. The week concludes Nov. 15, 2019, with the Northeast Minnesota Apprenticeship Summit in Duluth where Thomas Kriger, the director of research at North America’s Building Trades Unions, will deliver the keynote address.

Kriger is a past professor of labor studies and provost and vice president for academics at the National Labor College. He has also served as assistant to the president and director of legislation and research for the American Federation of Teacher’s largest higher education local, United University Professions (2190).

Follow Apprenticeship Minnesota on social media for updates throughout National Apprenticeship Week. Apprentices and sponsors will be sharing their success stories throughout the week using the hashtags #ApprenticeshipWorks and #NAW19 on social media.

Questions? Contact [dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us). For additional information visit, [dli.mn.gov/NAW](http://dli.mn.gov/NAW)

## NAW2019 SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Tuesday Nov. 12, 2019	Wednesday Nov. 13, 2019	Thursday Nov. 14, 2019	Friday Nov. 15, 2019
<b>Workforce Event</b> Rochester, MN	<b>Workforce Event</b> Blaine, MN	<b>Public Schools Event</b> St. Paul, MN	<b>Northeast Minnesota Apprenticeship Summit</b> Duluth, MN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Fair</li> <li>• Panel Discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Center Tour</li> <li>• Panel Discussion</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship 101</li> <li>• Bus Tours</li> <li>• Keynote Speaker</li> <li>• Panel Discussions</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>