

Profiles in Academia - FTI Instructors See Value of Training

The primary objective of the Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) has always been to provide the best opportunities in training and education for our membership. Every day, the staff of the FTI works exhaustively to develop curriculum, promote upcoming course offerings, establish partnerships with accredited institutions of higher learning, and raise awareness throughout the membership about the importance of continuing education.

It is important for our membership to understand that training does not end after apprenticeship. In fact, it is a lifelong process. That is why we encourage every member to use the FTI as a resource for continuing education. In this edition of the *Journal*, we are recognizing Alex Beltran and Greg Internicola for their outstanding efforts as FTI students.

GREG INTERNICOLA (DISTRICT COUNCIL 4, LOCAL UNION 43)

Greg has completed five courses at the International Training Center (Industrial Applicator, HAZWOPER, SSPC C-3/C-5, Teaching Techniques I). His plans for the future include completing the Teaching Techniques

series, working toward his SSPC lead instructor certification, and enrolling in one of our collegiate degree programs. When asked about his learning experience at the training center, he said: "I have enjoyed each course very much. The instructors were very knowledgeable and I will be able to apply what I've learned back at my council."

ALEX BELTRAN (DISTRICT COUNCIL 16, LOCAL UNION 767)

Alex Beltran has successfully completed five courses at the ITC (CW1 Welding, Overton Rigging and Hoisting, Welding Train-the-Trainer, Teaching Techniques I & II). After brother Beltran completes the Teaching Techniques series, he will begin working toward his bachelor's degree in Health & Safety. "The FTI staff has created a great environment for our union brothers and sisters to improve their skills. They not only give great instruction, they also instill self confidence," Alex said. His favorite course was Overton Rigging and Hoisting. He now teaches this course at his home council and feels "very comfortable" with the material.

Outstanding job, FTI! Keep up the good work.



Dedicated student Alex Beltran.



Successful student Greg Internicola.

FTI WORKS ON RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees, the FTI is in the process of developing a resource directory to send to our district councils, local unions, contractor partners, and affiliates. This directory will contain the addresses of each DC's training facility, contact information, photographs of the training facilities, and the names of our training directors. All individuals seeking information about the IUPAT apprenticeship training programs will be able to use this directory as a source of reference. This will also assist our recruitment and retention department in promoting the organization to prospective apprentices.

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WELDING A MORE SECURE FUTURE AT FTI

FTI WORKS WITH AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY TO OFFER WELDING INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

One of the goals of the FTI is to have at least one Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) in each IUPAT District Council. Achieving this would be of great economic benefit to the training fund, because it would give each council a certified inspector to conduct training and inspect completed welds.

In 2008, the FTI held two American Welding Society (AWS) CWI Examination Preparation courses with a combined total of 31 participants. This highly demanding course requires each participant to study the AWS manuals before arriving for training. To become a CWI, the participant must complete 48 hours of instruction and pass the AWS CWI exam.

The FTI would like to recognize our new CWIs:

Neil Amadio, District Council 21

Tom Kowalski, District Council 22

Alex Beltran, District Council 16

Jeffrey Snell, District Council 15

David Boblett, District Council 53

Peter Voccio, District Council 11

Peter Grillo, District Council 9

Since there are only 22,000 CWIs throughout the world, these individuals are now part of an elite group of professionals. Congratulations on your certifications!

WELDING TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

In an effort to preserve IUPAT jurisdiction in the Glazing industry, the FTI hosted the Welding Train-the-Trainer class from February 22–27, 2009. Professor Jim Greer, former president of AWS and District Council 14 instructor, taught a class of 10 trainers, all of whom completed the course successfully.

Trainers who complete this course will develop the necessary skills required to teach the practical and theoretical skills of welding at the local level. These trainers will also have the skills needed to prepare their students for the American Welding Society Certification Exam.

During instruction, students examine the fundamentals of the Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) process, including safety precautions and terminology. Students also receive hands-on experience with SMAW at the IUPAT/FTI International Training Center.



Jim Greer relays training skills to IUPAT members in Welding Train-the-Trainer class.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The FTI would like to remind our district councils of our grant program. The FTI Board of Trustees established this grant program to provide the district councils and local union training funds with the financial assistance that they would need to continue educating our members and moving their training programs forward.

During these challenging economic times, the FTI understands the need to provide training to our members so they may secure work for themselves in this competitive industry. We want to make sure our members continue to be the most skilled workers in the construction trades. Remember, it is the IUPAT's reputation for quality craftsmanship that makes our workers the most sought-after.

To obtain a grant, submit a formal request to the FTI stating the need and purpose of the grant, amount requested, and how the training program will benefit from the approved grant.

Please be advised that the FTI and the Board of Trustees approve grants two times per fiscal year. Those approval dates are January 1 and July 1.

All grants to be considered for the January closing must be received by October 1.

All grants to be considered for the July closing must be received by April 1.

Requests for grants will be reviewed by the regional Apprentice Training Representative, regional vice president, and Finishing Contractors Association (FCA). Final approval will be handled by the FTI co-chairs.

For more information regarding grant qualifications, please contact the Finishing Trades Institute.

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