

# APPRENTICESHIP



Nelson Caro, WECA Commercial Apprentice (Photo Courtesy of WECA)

## A Word from an Apprentice

*What does apprenticeship mean to you?*

**Nelson Caro**

*WECA commercial Apprentice*

“I am Nelson Caro, a fifth-year WECA commercial Apprentice and veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I served as a sergeant and an intermediate level hydraulics/pneumatic technician for FA-18s and KC-130s. I served two tours in Iraq, one in Iwakuni, Japan, and one in

Bahrain and Syria—all before applying for WECA’s Commercial Apprenticeship program.

I’ve found success in WECA’s Apprenticeship program in a few ways. First, you should ask as many questions as possible. The instructors are very knowledgeable and have no issues at all answering your questions. Second, discuss the topics with fellow classmates. Since not everyone learns the same way, it helps to get other points of view to get a better understanding of certain subjects. Last would be the labs. Having labs that show things like conduit bending, or properly connecting motors circuits etc. are very helpful.

As part of my apprenticeship, I work as a lead man with member contractor Bergelectric Corporation, a company I would be grateful to continue working with after graduation; aspiring to become a foreman, and then a general foreman. When you work hard for them, they work hard for you, and they have kept giving me different types of jobs so I wasn’t stuck just learning one aspect of the trade. I’m able to be more versatile because of it.

Being a veteran in one of WECA’s Apprenticeship programs has been a big benefit and helped me a lot. It taught me to be prompt, trained me to get the job done, taught me to be confident in my work and take pride in myself, and I would absolutely recommend other veterans pursue an electrical career.”