

APPRENTICESHIP

A Word From a Journeyman

What does apprenticeship mean to you?

Alberto Ortiz

Residential Plumber Journeyman

United Association of Journeyman & Apprenticeship of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry, Local 393

This article is written in Spanish, Alberto's native language, and has been translated into English below.

“Hola, mi nombre es Alberto Ortiz. Yo soy un miembro activo de la Union de plomeros y ajustadores de tuberias. Mi vida a cambiado mucho en los ultimos anos, gracias al programa de apredizaje de practicas del Local 393 San Jose, CA.

Despues de gradurme de la escuela preparatoria, no savia que hacer de mi vida queria seguir estudiando pero no tenia el apoyo. Mi familia estaba batallando con la renta y cobros. El colegio no era una opcion, porque era demaciado caro. Tenia que buscar un trabajo para poder ayudar. Trabajando de un trabajo a otro era algo que no deseaba para mi.

Cuando me entere del programa Pipe Trade Center apprenticeship, pense que era una oportunidad y de continuar la escuela. Estaba muy emocionado de empezar el programa porque no savia lo que me esperaba. En mi primer dia, estaba nervioso y muchas inquietudes. Yo estaba muy optimista de lograr el objetivo porque el programa ofrece ayuda y apoyo. Con trabajo y determinacion sabia que podia cambiar mi vida para un mayor futuro.

Ahora que ya soy un official, puedo decir que valio la pena. Tengo un horario de trabajo convinente. Puedo ir a casa y disfrutar la cena con la familia. Puedo disfrutar los fines



de semana ya que por lo regular no se trabaja y ingresos economicos son muy Buenos. Lo mas satisfactorio de terminar el programa es saver que esto no es solo un trabajo, es una profecion.

Mi consejo a los aprendiz y a cual quier persona que quiera empezar una nueva Carrera lo major es empezar lo mas pronto posible. El fruto se mirara al final. Tiene muy Buenos beneficios como tener estabiliadad economica, medica, y un gran excelente plan de retiro.”

“Hi my name is Alberto Ortiz. I am currently an active member of the Union of Plumbers and Pipefitters. My life has changed so much in the past years, thanks to the apprenticeship program Local 393 San Jose, CA.

After graduating from Prospect High School, I did not know what I was going to do with my life. I wanted to continue school, but I did not have the support. My family was already struggling with rent and bills. I had to look for a job to help out. College was not an option, since it would be too expensive, and working from one job to another was something that I could not see myself doing for the rest of my life. I was not happy.

When I heard about the PipeTrade Center apprenticeship program, I found it exciting and a way to go back to school. I was nervous since English was my second language. I was very nervous to start the program because I did not know what to expect. On my first day, I was so nervous and had many questions. I had confidence that I would be able to start and finish the program because I knew that through the program offered support and guidance. My abilities and determination made me want to continue and change my life for the better.

Now that I am a journeyman, I could say it was worth it. I have convenient work hours. I can go home and have a nice dinner with my family. I don't have to work on weekends, and my financial stability is much better. The most rewarding aspect of completing the program is knowing that this is not just a regular job; this is a career.

My advice to apprentices and anybody who wants to start a career, is to begin the program as soon as possible. The reward will pay off at the end. It has excellent benefits as to having financial stability, medical benefits, and a great retirement plan.”