

# APPRENTICESHIP

## A Word From a Journeyman

*What does apprenticeship mean to you?*

### **Demi Zayas**

*Journeyman Electrician*

“The birth of my daughter sparked my desire to become an electrician.

Although I’ve been mechanically inclined from a young age thanks to my dad’s background in carpentry, it was my daughter’s birth that made me realize the next best step to giving her a good future was to join the trades.

I did just that, and along the way I’ve joined a small yet growing club of women who are drawn to traditionally male-dominated industries. According to Data USA and the United States Census Bureau, there are only 15,864 female electricians in the United States, compared to the 732,242 males working in the industry. These figures illustrate the urgent need for female role models for women aspiring to careers in the trades.

Being female is pretty interesting in a male field. When I start a job, I’m generally ignored for the first three weeks. Then, once the men see that I work hard and carry my own weight, everything opens up and nobody has an issue with me being a female.

I strongly believe that more women should join the trades because it’s an amazing experience. You get the satisfaction of seeing something you built. It’s so gratifying and it gives a sense of accomplishment. Not only that, but the future is bright for the trades. Electricity isn’t going anywhere and the need is not going to go away. If anything, we are just going to become more innovative, and use it differently and more efficiently.

Most of all, I want all aspiring electricians to know that you will never know everything. If you keep that mentality and are always willing to learn, you can take this job anywhere you want it to go.”

*Demi Zayas graduated from the Commercial Electrical Apprenticeship Program with Western Electrical Contractors Association (WECA) in 2018. During her apprenticeship, she was indentured with Helix Electric, Inc., and has continued her employment with them since graduation.*



Demi Zayas installs electrical wiring.