

APPRENTICESHIP

A Word From a Journeyman

What does apprenticeship mean to you?

Jane Templin

Inside Wireman

IBEW Local 11 – Retired

In 1975, my friend Rita's husband, David Reick, told me about apprenticeships, and shared how to apply for his union. I was not aware that apprenticeships even existed; 46 years later, I remain grateful for his sharing and mentorship.

Starting the apprenticeship at IBEW Local 11 in 1976 was indeed life changing. I loved the work and the training. I became a skilled electrician earning satisfaction and self-worth while building my community. Opportunities for growth, challenges and responsibilities became my reality; working for 20 years in the field, receiving appointed and elected positions in my union, moving to a Senior Instructor position in our apprenticeship program and 10 years later to Outreach Director for the Electrical Training Institute were opportunities fulfilled.



Jane Templin,
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Women electricians of IBEW Local 11 with Supervisor Janice Hahn (center) spring 2019 at Long Beach City College. Jane Templin (far right).

Early in my apprenticeship, I started sharing and encouraging others to find their careers through apprenticeship in gratitude for what I found. Getting information to others that did not have a friend or family member to guide became a passion for me. My union was supportive and offered resources to help me and other like-minded workers to reach out into our communities with information, mentoring, tutoring and developing partnerships with apprenticeship preparation programs. I am proud our apprenticeship program has grown and become more diverse because of these efforts.

I retired last September, after 44 years. I am happy knowing there are more active, passionate workers

committed to growing and promoting apprenticeship, and to giving others the chance to find life-changing careers that come with good benefits and the joy of finding satisfaction in their work and skills.

Be proud of your craft, become a mentor.