



## Institute

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Thank you Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation for sponsoring classroom tools for our Miami and Broward Training Centers.

# CriticalPaths™

January 2016

## News for the Florida Construction Apprentice and Training Industry



### Meet the ABC Institute's 2016/17 Chairman of the Board

**Ron Pearson, President, Pegasus Painting & Waterproofing, LLC.**

Ron Pearson's success is a 'rags to riches' story. Born in Germany, he grew up an orphan. Ron had always wanted to be a painter. His dream was

to be able to make people's homes look nice so that when they come home, they are comfortable, something that was not afforded to him. "He wanted to provide something to other people that he never had".

At the tender age of 15 years, Ron participated in a painting apprenticeship which he worked for four consecutive years. After his apprenticeship, he enlisted in the military for eight years. When Ron was 27 years old, he decided it was time for a "fresh start". His journey brought him to Boston where his sister lived. With no passport, and very little knowledge of the English language, Ron had a long road ahead.

Though it was a difficult beginning, Ron persevered, driven by his firm belief that "when there's a will, there's a way". Subsequently, he found work with a company in Boston and ultimately ran operations for a small painting store. Sometime after Ron's oldest son, Lars, completed physical treatment for his disability, Ron and his wife, Kathie, agreed it was time to relocate. After all, Ron was working in an industry he was not educated in and wanted a change, equally as important was the brutal winters they wanted to leave behind. Before embarking on their joint job search, Ron and Kathie compiled a list of requirements as a guide for their job search; at the top of Ron's list: "no more snow". Kathie's search for a microbiologist position, yielded several offers, such as Denver and Utah, however, these areas were too cold. Ron's job search brought the Pear-

son family (Ron, Kathie, Lars, and Nils) to sunny Florida. He secured a position as project manager with a commercial painting and waterproofing company. Through hard work and devotion, Ron worked his way up to co-owner and ultimately became Vice President of Sales.

One day Ron decided it was enough; it was time to begin his own painting and waterproofing company. He took 3 months off to spend time with his family. On October 22, 2014, Pegasus Painting & Waterproofing, LLC was born. His company has grown rapidly and has nearly 50 employees of which 5 of the employees are managers and Ron personally educates and trains daily. In addition, he sends his crew to ABCI Leadership classes, which pays off because his employees "stick around once they see the investment [placed in them]."

Ron is inspired by education and holds firmly that "Education is everything". Education is one of the reasons he fully endorses ABCI; the programs are grounded in "educating, supporting, teaching, and sharing knowledge with students". ABCI "provides all the tools, the means, and the methods"; all that is needed are individuals who will "take advantage of the opportunity".

Ron finds it easy to "be involved with ABCI since there is a system in place while simultaneously running his business". He capitalizes on the moments when he speaks to students in the classroom to inspire them to "stick it out, suck it up, make it work, and work through it. It is worth it." In the end, Ron encourages students to "buy in" in order to have a better future for themselves and their families. "There is a future in this trade because there is always something to build".

learn more at

**WWW.WETRAIN.ORG**

# topping**OUT**

## Why Train with ABC?

AMERICA IS STILL FACING A HUGE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED CONSTRUCTION CRAFT PROFESSIONALS

75% of ABC members report a shortage of qualified craft professionals



ABC Member Questionnaire

Occupations typically requiring apprenticeship training are projected to grow

**22.2%**

from 2012 - 2022

More than twice as fast as the average of all industries.

**2X**

**1.6 million**

US Department of Labor's 2013 Occupational Outlook Handbook

new skilled workers will be needed between now and 2022.

### ABC IS DOING ITS PART TO TRAIN THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

**71,000 +**  
Trained

**\$29,000,000 +**  
Total Investment

**3,000,000 +** Total Classroom Learning  
Hours (not including OTJ)

*This data represents ABC chapter training done in 2013. It does not include training completed by individual member companies.*

The ABC Institute wants to welcome you back for the Spring Semester.

Students who attend the first night of their class in January will be provided with:

- Free pizza
- ABC Institute Apprentice t-shirts
- Nightly drawings for an AmEx gift card
- Raffles and other give-a-ways!

### 2016 Calendar

January 4	OJT Hours Due New Student Classes Begin
Jan 4-7	HVAC/Fire Sprinkler/Plumbing/Miami Electrical Classes Resume
Jan 9	Broward Line Erector Classes Resume
January 11-12	Space Coast & Broward Electrical Classes Resume
January 12	Electrical Classes Begin in Miami and Broward
January 13-14	Roofing Classes Resume
January 16	West coast Line Erector Classes Resume
Jan 23	Miami Line Erector Classes Resume
February 1	OJT Hours Due
March 1	OJT Hours Due
March 1-4	ABC National Workforce Week
March 3	ABC National Craft Championship South Florida High School Construction Career Fair and Expo

### The Spotlight

#### STUDENT

Meet Nelson Vergara, 1st year electrical student at ABC Institute

"Contacting ABC was one of the best decisions of my life. The staff at ABC worked hard with me to find an employer that would not only invest in my training, but provides me with a fulfilling career. When I walk into class I am surrounded by peers with the same goals and aspirations, as well as professional instructors who push us to our fullest potential. ABC Institute provides the perfect environment to nurture and develop apprentice students to become the leading professionals in our industry. I look forward to continuing my education and am proud to be part of the ABC Institute family."

#### EMPLOYER

Congratulations and thanks to Wilco Electric

Wilco Electric is an ABC Institute's Platinum Education Partner, sponsoring twenty (20) students in the Lineman program. "The ABC Institute continues to be a great partner with us at Wilco Electrical. We currently have employees enrolled throughout all three levels and have maintained the graduates of the program. We've found that ABC provides valuable instruction and commands a level of commitment that ensures our industry of qualified employees." - Ryan Ouellette

# superSTRUCTURE

## PREVAILING WAGES, what does it mean ?



The phrase “prevailing wage” invokes different emotions with different people. Many contractors cringe at the thought of bidding on a prevailing wage project. It means paying journeymen wages for inexperienced or under skilled individuals, considerable paperwork and compliance reviews with the Department of Labor.

While the ABC Institute cannot complete your compliance paperwork for you, we can assist and provide guidance, as well as save you money and make your bids more competitive through participation in an ABC registered apprenticeship program.

Without having your skilled labor enrolled in a registered apprentice program, you may be required to pay journeyman wages regardless of their skill level or

experience. Enrolling your employees however as an apprentice is the principle way the government allows you to recognize them as something other than a journeyman. In addition there are many benefits for your employee and the apprentice.

- FREE education - the employer and the government pays for the training.
- No student loans.
- Accredited, nation-wide credentials.
- Earn college credits toward an industry degree.
- Periodic, scheduled wage increments
- Lifelong skills leading to a career.

Contractors who sponsor employees into a registered program and are working on a prevailing wage project must possess a certificate of apprenticeship (per apprentice and project), as your training provider, the ABC Institute will assist you with this process.

*For more information on how the ABC Institute can make your “prevailing wage” projects more profitable and competitive, please contact Ruth Tirado, Vice President of Education and Training at 954-580-2950 or info@WeTrain.org.*

### Sample of Savings:

Current Federal Miami/Dade Journeymen Wages:

General Decision Number: FL150027 03/20/2015, FL27, Superseded General Decision Number: FL20140027

	Rates	Fringes	Total Hourly Pay
ELECTRICIAN, Includes Installation of HVAC/Temperature Controls	\$ 30.11	\$10.06	\$40.17
Approved Apprenticeship Program	\$15.06	\$10.06	\$25.12
<b>Wage Savings, 1st Level</b>			<b>\$15.05 savings per hour, per person</b>

**\$30,140.00 annual wage savings per apprentice**

Resource: Davis Bacon Wage Determination, as of December, 2015, Journeymen Prevailing Wages: <http://wdol.gov/wdol/scafiles/davisbacon/fl27.dvb>

**ABC’s Safety Committee** will meet January 28, 2016 to discuss their plans to help achieve ABC’s strategic goal of establishing ABC Members as the ‘world class’ standard for health, safety and environment in the construction industry. Should you have an interest in participating on this committee please contact Ruth at the ABC Institute.

- ABC’s brand and image are known throughout the industry such that our members are seen as the safest in the construction industry. When someone sees the ABC logo they think safety.
- ABC Members will have an improved health and safety culture where injury & illness free workplace exists.
- All ABC Members have established a drug and alcohol free workplace.
- ABC’s “STEP (Safety Training & Evaluation Process) is the standard for safety in the construction industry.
- ABC to be the ANSI standard developer for sustainability certification for contractors.

# CriticalPaths™

News for the Florida Construction  
Apprentice and Training Industry

## Meet the ABC Institute Staff

Angela Hernandez, *Administrative Assistant*



Angela Hernandez maintains the student records for our Space Coast and Miami Training Centers as well as assists both students and contractors with the registration process.

Her professional skills and experience as an educator serve both the ABC Institute and our students well. Her

smiling face and friendly voice is unforgettable. She exemplifies the service we strive to provide our students and contractors.

learn more at

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*Critical Paths* is a quarterly newsletter published by ABC Institute, Inc. for apprentices, craft trainees, construction students, specialty contractors, and government and elected officials.

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