

WINTER 2023



WATTS CURRENT @ ETI

QUARTERLY STUDENT NEWSLETTER



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From the Training Director's Desk



A year has gone by since I wrote my first article as Training Director. It has been a busy year full of changes and challenges, but I'm happy to report that the ETI staff has stepped up to meet these challenges and we are thriving.

I had a vision of making ETI World Class in customer service, education and facilities. I am pleased to say that there have been marked improvements in all of these areas.

We have launched a record number of advanced courses, including high voltage cable splicing and EPRI level one and two classes. Our instructors are becoming subject matter experts and raising the bar on what delivering the best education looks like.

At my last check, 98% of phone calls are being answered, a sharp increase from our past numbers. Emails are being answered timely. Considering the volume of communications we get every month, ETI staff has done a great job making you, our customer, a priority.

I have instituted numerous policy changes from class size, reducing the number of students allowed on campus so we don't exceed our parking spaces, giving each apprentice their class schedule for their entire apprenticeship and many others that have improved everyone's overall experience.

We now have senior instructors dedicated and accountable to specific groups of students to make sure they enjoy the best educational experience possible.

The ETI has hosted numerous large events this past year that tie directly to our industry and the future work we will be doing. Everyone is impressed with our facility when I take them on tours and meet with our apprentices.

Overall, I am delighted with the direction we are headed and know World Class is within our reach. These changes don't just happen without everyone embracing the changes and vision of becoming better. From the Trustees, senior staff, instructors, clerical and facilities team, everyone has contributed to making the ETI the best training center in the country.

With the holidays quickly approaching, I am thankful for being part of an industry we can be proud of. I wish the best to everyone in this holiday season and look forward to serving you in 2024.



David Nott
Training Director
D899684



Happy Holidays Sisters and Brothers,

In the past we've touched on the topic of mental health awareness. In our construction world a lot of us tend to try to keep up the tough person mentality. However, let us not forget, that "It's okay to not be okay". If you find yourself battling with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, or any other related issues, it's okay to ask for help. As a union member you have resources available to you and your family if needed. The holidays are a time for joy and happiness. We must remember why we put in the hard work that we do and why we go the extra mile while building Los Angeles County. But do not forget, in the haste of the holidays, the person you need to take care of first, "YOURSELF". It's hard to take care of our loved ones if we are not right within ourselves. Please make sure you know the resources that we have during tough times. Your different welfare committees (Districts 1-6, Sound, Transportation), Employees Assistance Program 877-255-2667 (commonly known as the MAP), Suicide Crisis Line 988 (This is nationwide). We can do this together as a union family. It takes a village, and you'd be surprised how big your village is. We hope you all have a very Happy New Year.

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Apprentice Coordinator for NECA Los

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Ho, ho, ho! Warm greetings to all at the Electrical Training Institute! It's Tinsel here, one of Santa's most enthusiastic elves, thrilled to recount the tale of Santa's delightful visit to your institute.

Disguised as the Assistant Training Director, the jolly Mr. Steve Rose, Santa brought a piece of North Pole magic to the corridors of ETI. His mission? To spread festive cheer and acknowledge the hard work and achievements of your wonderful students.

With a bag of carefully chosen gifts, Santa-Steve set out to recognize those who had shown exceptional dedication. He gifted sturdy 16' and 25' Milwaukee tape measures to these diligent students – tools that will no doubt be invaluable in their future endeavors.

And for those shining stars with a GPA of 95% or higher? Santa had a special surprise! These dedicated students received Yeti brand tumblers, a token of appreciation for their outstanding academic performance.

While not everyone received a gift, the spirit of joy and camaraderie Santa brought with him was a gift to all. His visit was a heartwarming reminder of the joy and togetherness that this festive season fosters.

As he bid farewell, a class of students offered Santa-Steve some cookies, adding a sweet touch to an already memorable day. His hearty "Ho, ho, ho!" resonated through the halls, leaving behind a trail of smiles and merry laughter.

Here at the North Pole, while I ensure Rudolph is cozy with fresh straw, I can't help but feel warmed by the stories of Santa's visit to ETI. It reminds us that the true essence of Christmas is in the joy we share and the kindness we spread.

May your holiday season be filled with laughter, warmth, and the magic of community.

With the jolliest of wishes,

Tinsel 🌲 ✨



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



OUR STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD, SPONSORED BY MILWAUKEE TOOLS, RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN THEIR PROGRAM. THE CRITERIA ARE BASED ON MERIT AND ENCOMPASS FACTORS LIKE ATTENDANCE, GPA, AND STELLAR CONTRACTOR EVALUATIONS.



Clint Pitsenbarger
Inside Wireman



Alan Chung
Inside Wireman



Ramiro Funez
Sound Installer

Advancing Into the Future: ETI's Year of Transformation

Happy Holidays Everyone!

It has been a year of many changes at the ETI.

Take a look at what we have accomplished already and what is soon to come in 2024.

After a four year hiatus, the Western Electrical Cyber-Security Apprenticeship Training (WECAT) has had the latest version of the California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program (CALCTP) implemented and utilized in classroom instruction.

We recently held a Journey-level class on the Commerce campus which was attended by four of the five instructors who took part in the growth from its beta stages to full implementation.

The WECAT class was created in partnership with UC Davis and will be made available to all 5-2 Inside Wireman Apprentices in 2024, as well as Journey-level members.



In addition to the WECAT updates, we recently received a dual-purpose Cyber-Security and Smart Building Energy Management Systems curriculum and lab from UC Davis.

In the first quarter of 2024, this class curriculum and accompanying lab will be finalized by ETI Staff, and will be made available to all 5-2 Inside Wireman Apprentices in 2024, as well as Journey-level members.





Shining Bright: ETI's Ongoing Upgrades and Industry Partnerships



If you have recently taken a stroll through the ETI warehouse, you will likely have noticed substantial changes! Out of date material and labs have been retired and cleared out to make ample space for the new labs on the way.

The High Voltage Cable Splicing labs have undergone significant upgrades. The fencing that surrounded the lab has been removed, the switchgear has been relocated from the middle of the area to the book cage fence line, and a dozen new splicing stations have been built. This is only Phase One of the transformation that area is undergoing!



Additionally, lighting throughout the warehouse has been upgraded. The warehouse is now three times brighter than it was previously!

We are doing all that we can to create a world-class facility and we are literally shining a light on it.

We have become an extremely popular facilitating location for many industry partners, such as the Los Angeles Federation of Labor (who have their monthly meeting at our facility). It brings us joy to be able to facilitate their event in a much brighter space this month!

In the coming weeks, we will continue our progress by clearing and reorganizing the facilities back-of-house space, as well as our book cage.

And—we are just getting started!

Respectfully and in Brotherhood,



Steve Rose
D699411

SAFETY MATTERS

Stay Safe This Season: Understanding Wildfire Smoke Risks

As we approach the winter season in Los Angeles County, it's important to remain vigilant about wildfire safety, especially during occasional dry and windy spells that can still occur in December.



What You Need to Know

Most outdoor workers are affected by wildfire smoke regulations, but there are some exceptions. You're covered unless you work in a fully enclosed and air-filtered building or vehicle, or if your exposure to heavy smoke is very short (less than one hour during your shift). This rule also doesn't apply to firefighters fighting wildfires.

Staying Informed and Protected

Understanding and monitoring the air quality is key. The Air Quality Index, or AQI, measures how polluted the air is. You can easily check this using free resources like the U.S. EPA Air Now and the California Air Resources Board websites, or by downloading the EPA's Air Quality app on your phone. The AQI is now included in the default weather app for iPhone.

When the air gets too smoky, as in the AQI for small particles in the air (PM 2.5) goes over 150 – it's time to take action. Employers might change work schedules, reduce how hard you work, or even stop outdoor work for a while. If you have to work outside when the AQI is high, you should have access to special masks like N95 respirators to help protect your lungs.

If the AQI goes above 500, which is rare but very dangerous, using a mask becomes a must to keep you safe while working outside.

Remember, your health is your top priority. Keeping an eye on air quality and knowing what steps to take during high-smoke days can help protect you during wildfire season.

For questions about this or any other safety issues, please call:
Allen Sloan at (323) 517-9553

Allen Sloan
Director of Safety



A More Equitable Pathway to Apprenticeship



We're excited to announce that come January 2024, the Electrical Training Institute will reopen its application process, and we invite our apprentices to spread the word. Our new, streamlined process is not just about making strides in equity and accessibility but also to address unanticipated challenges that resulted from the increased interest from members of the community looking to join our program.

The change to this process did not come about lightly. With our previous process, all applications had to be reviewed by members of the ETI staff. While this may seem like a minor concern, some quick math tells a different story. In 2015, we began to see large increases in the number of apprenticeship applications we received. In the year 2019 alone, we had nearly 8,500 people apply to join our programs. In each of these instances, staff is required to physically review ALL applicant paperwork, schedule ALL qualified applicants for the entrance exam, and schedule and conduct interviews for those candidates that passed the entrance exam. From January 2019 through July 2023, we received (and had to process) nearly 30,000 applications. This stretched our resources beyond our organizational limits, which consequently impacted our ability to process applicants in what we feel is a timely manner. In addition, applicants were also required to visit our campus on three different instances to work through the application process.

The changes being implemented in 2024 are aimed at relieving these issues. Moving forward, applicants will only have to report physically to the ETI campus one time instead of the three separate trips required previously. We also anticipate that the changes being made will significantly decrease wait times for applicants.

To ensure transparency, we will be adding a new FAQ page to the Information for Applicants tab of the ETI website. Members and applicants can stay informed by regularly visiting the ETI website for the most accurate information.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to continuing to maximizing resources to improve the member experience at the ETI.

Special thanks to Pre-Indentured Team Members – Summer Zachary, Alan Mora, and Anthy Hadjimarkos for their insights and assistance on this article.

Deon Mayes

A198484

Assistant Training Director





EMPOWER



I'm happy to report that since the last newsletter, our EMPOWER meetings have been everything I'd hoped they would be, and more. They have been informative, fun, bonding, and given our EMPOWER members opportunities to meet leaders who could have a positive and impactful influence on their lives.

October brought us IBEW Business Representative and Safety Officer Mike Costigan and IBEW/ NECA Director of Safety Allen Sloan who spoke to the importance of and need for PPE designed for women's body types.

This discussion set the stage for our November guest, Kelly Franco, the entrepreneur behind Seraphina Women's Safety Apparel. Kelly is an innovative spirit and she shared stories about her groundbreaking creations, like FR-rated bras for women. She showed us an eye opening video where a mannequin under test wearing a 20 cal suit was put under an 18 cal arc flash event. The mannequin was wearing a regular bra, and even though the outerwear was rated for the event, the undergarment melted and fused to the mannequin. Kelly also shared some of the challenges of designing clothing for women, answering our questions with great detail, and left us all inspired by her passion. She has generously provided a discount code to Local 11 members looking to buy women's safety apparel from her website Seraphinasafety.com. The discount code is **IBEW30** for **30%** off. Watch for the discount code link soon on LAETT.com!

We ended the year on a high note in December with our most substantial Grand Raffle yet. Thanks to the Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) grant, whose mission is to create career pathways for women, non-binary and underserved populations into careers in the building and construction sectors, two lucky winners received an Inside Wireman Klein tool kit. Milwaukee also generously donated to the raffle with a cooler, tumblers, and ball caps. Hand made soaps and a coloring book promoting diversity in the trades were also raffle prizes. December's meeting shared a documentary video from the Tradeswomen Archives of Neshtey Crudup, the first black woman to journey out in our local. It was inspiring to see her climb the ranks when she started her apprenticeship in the early 1980s. We women stand on her shoulders and follow the trail that she blazed.

EMPOWER meetings are filled with learning, sharing, mentoring, inspiration, and more, to assist in Local 11's ongoing efforts to recruit and support women.

As we turn the page on another successful quarter, we look forward to continuing this journey of empowerment, learning, and growth with each of you.

Reach out to us EMPOWER@laett.com

Anthony Hadjimarkos

7506295

Special Projects Assistant

EMPOWER Chair





Growth and Progress at Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference

The Tradeswomen Build Nations conference is an important event for women in the construction industry, and it keeps growing. This December, a record-breaking 4,000 women gathered in Washington D.C. Their enthusiasm and energy were truly inspiring. Because so many are attending, future conferences will take place in larger convention centers, like the one planned in New Orleans from September 27 to 29, 2024. That's the same week as the IBEW Women's Conference, so it's a great chance to attend both events.

This year, we heard from leaders like Nancy Pelosi and Liz Shuler. They emphasized how crucial it is for union members to get involved, especially in voting, to make our voices heard in important decisions.

Another hot topic discussed was the challenges of childcare for women in the trades. There were talks about potential solutions, including support from the government and unions. The Ironworkers Union has made a significant step by offering six months of paid maternity leave, and the Painters Union is now following their lead.

As the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference grows, it continues to inspire and shed light on important issues, bringing us all closer together. We leave the conference filled with a sense of unity and drive to improve our local chapters with new energy and ideas for progress.

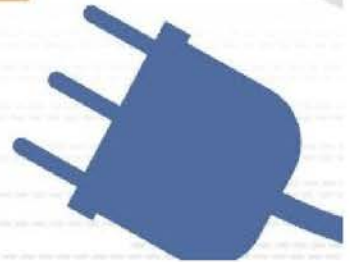
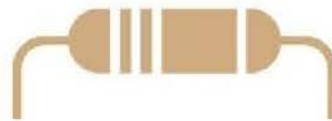


AFL-CIO President and IBEW Member
Liz Shuler Speaks to the IBEW Caucus



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yourself

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REWARD YOURSELF FOR
ACHIEVING THEM. SIMPLY
MARK OFF A CHECKLIST
AND THEN ENJOY YOUR
FAVORITE ACTIVITY.



Holiday Schedule

Note: No classes on weekends adjacent to holidays and on weekends when holidays occur.

New Year's Day

Monday, Jan 1, 2024

Office: Closed

Day School: No classes all week

Night Classes: No classes on Jan 1 and 2

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Jan 15, 2024

Office: Closed

Day School: No classes all week

Night Classes: No night classes on Jan 15 and 16

Presidents Day

Monday, Feb 19, 2024

Office: Will remain open

All Classes: Will remain in session

Cesar Chavez Day

Monday April 1, 2024 (Observed)

Office: Closed

Day School: No classes all week

Night Classes: No classes on April 1 and 2

FAQS

How is our homework graded?

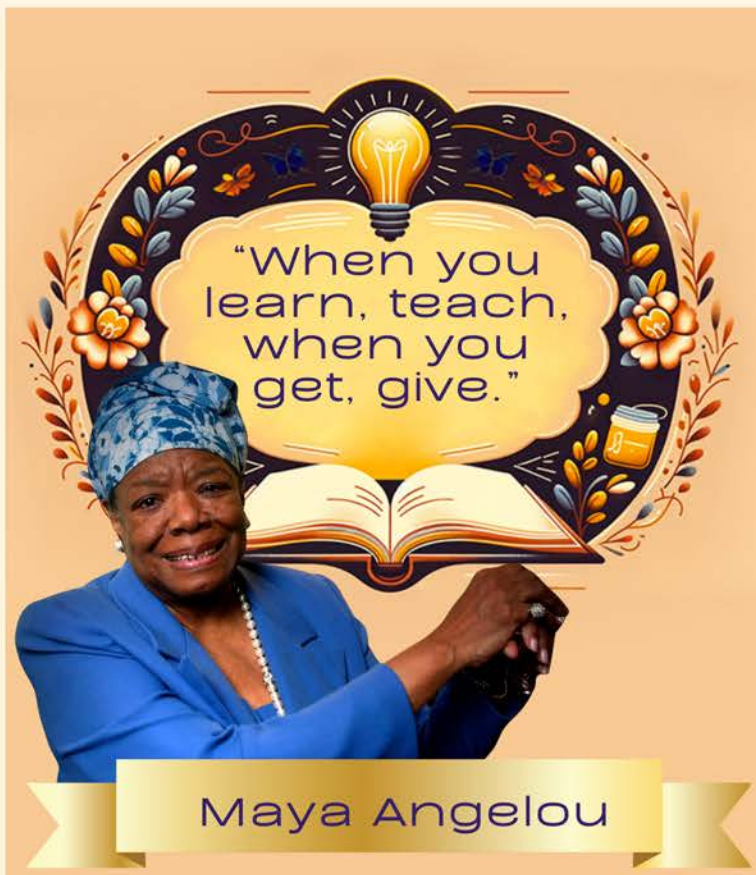
Your homework grades are calculated based on the scores from your completed assignments in the Blended Learning platform. For example, we average the scores from lessons 1 to 10 and record this average in the ATS.

What happens If I miss a day of class during day school?

Visit our website at **LAETT.com**, navigate to the 'Students' section. There, you'll find the 'Important Forms and Documents' section. Please complete and submit the Leave of Absence form, along with any supporting documentation.

How can I arrange a makeup class if needed?

If you need to schedule a makeup class, contact our office at **(323) 221-5881** and we'll be happy to arrange a makeup class for you.



Contact Us

APPRENTICESHIP &
TRAINING QUESTIONS

[323] 221-5881

DUES OFFICE
[626] 243-9700

DISPATCH
[323] 221-5861

HEALTH & PENSION
[323] 221-5861



WATTS CURRENT @ ETI

We'd love to hear from you!

We're always on the lookout for great content for each issue. Please send your suggestions to: marketing@laett.com

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Robert Corona

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