

WATTS CURRENT

@ETI

QUARTERLY STUDENT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



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From the Training Director's Desk

On May 11th, we held our largest graduation on record! 455 apprentices graduated from our program in 2023 and we had over 700 RSVP's. The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles and was a wonderful success, the ballroom looked amazing and most graduates walked away with at least one raffle prize. A big shout out to the ETI staff for the countless hours they put in behind the scenes to make everything go so smoothly.

We continue to self-reflect on what we do and how we do it. Coming soon: we will be able to take credit cards on our website to register for upcoming journey-level classes and provide refunds electronically. I am now comfortable with the security measures in place to conduct online transactions. Making sure our members' sensitive information is protected was my paramount concern over convenience.

You will also notice that we have posted some upcoming classes in this newsletter. We are not able to do this with every class, but for classes that maintain consistent enrollments, we will be posting these on our website and in the newsletter.

The ETI remains a popular destination for tours and events from organizations that affect our industry or want to be part of our workforce. High schools, colleges, tool manufacturers, utilities, solar, batteries, hydrogen...I could list dozens of others. Our facility is a beacon that is known throughout the country as the most progressive and cutting-edge training facility in electrical education. We are proud of the recognition we receive!

Also of special note, ETI will be 60 years old on July 1st. Established in 1964, this will be our first year celebrating by posting history about the ETI on campus and on our social media platforms.

Summertime is fast approaching and it always makes me think of the vacations I used to take as a child with my family, or starting a summer project with my dad. I will close this article by wishing everyone a happy summer and hope you are able to build the same good memories with your family.

David Nott
Training Director
D899684



The Coordinator's Corner

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

With the Summertime heat upon us, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the hazards associated with working in the heat; from working on rooftops, in trenches, and inside new buildings long before the HVAC is commissioned. These working conditions often expose us to much higher temperatures than most people outside of our industry experience.

For this reason, CAL-OSHA has Heat Illness Prevention policies in place that each employer must strictly adhere to including, but not limited to:

- 1) Providing access to one quart of drinking water per hour for each employee
- 2) Providing a large shade rest area to accommodate the crew once outside temperatures exceed 80 degrees. Employees should always be encouraged to take a quick cool-off rest period whenever necessary.

Recommendations to keep in your lunchbox over the next few months – Sunscreen, Hydration multiplier packets, Cooling neck wraps, and snacks high in natural H2O such as cucumbers, watermelon, grapes, etc. Remember that coffee and soda will dehydrate you so try to stick with water or sports drinks while working in the heat.

Stay safe out there and remember to be your brother's and sister's keepers. Look out for each other and pay attention to your surroundings.

Industrial Refinery Work is picking up and we expect our local contractors to need at least 30 apprentices over the summer months with RSO (Refinery Safety Overview) certifications. The RSO classes are offered by OSCA in Torrance and take approximately 2 ½ days to complete. The class fees are covered when registered through the ETI, and we have a dedicated class for local 11 apprentices set up for July 17th-19th, 2024.

In addition to the RSO card, many industrial, port, or airport projects may require a TWIC card (Transportation Worker Identification Credential). If you are interested in getting the TWIC card process started, please visit <https://www.tsa.gov/twic> or call 855-347-8371.

Remember there are more job opportunities when you have RSO and TWIC cards in hand!

Kelly Oliver

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Apprentice Coordinator for IBEW 11

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Aaron Miller

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Class of 2023

GRADUATION

On May 11, 2024, the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles was abuzz with excitement and pride as the Electrical Institute celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2023. This memorable event marked the culmination of years of dedication and hard work for 455 apprentices who successfully completed their training to become journeymen.

The graduation ceremony itself was a grand affair. Graduates were recognized for their perseverance and skill, and the excitement was amplified by the abundance of swag they received. The generous gifts, which included Yetis, Milwaukee backpacks, Klein Tools, Dodger tickets, and \$100 gift cards, were donated by various vendors and contractors who support the Electrical Institute.

As the day concluded, there was a unanimous sense of pride and accomplishment among the attendees. The Electrical Institute Class of 2023 graduation was not only a milestone for the graduates but also a celebration for their families, instructors, and the entire organization. The Electrical Institute continues to shine in the industry, and the Class of 2023 has undoubtedly set a remarkable precedent for future apprentices. Congratulations to all the graduates, and here's to their bright and successful futures!

Michelle Bermudez
Public Relations and Events Coordinator
Marketing@laett.com





Graduates VEEP Cohort-6

On May 30, 2024, we celebrated the graduation of our sixth VEEP cohort, consisting of fourteen men ready to become inside wiremen.

The graduation ceremony featured keynote speaker Ernesto Medrano, Executive Secretary for the Los Angeles and Orange County Building and Construction Trades. He emphasized the importance of a strong work ethic, consistency, and the critical role of electrical construction in our country's infrastructure.

The cohort also took a special moment to honor their instructor. The day concluded with a delightful lunch, and ETI staff provided all family members with a tour of the facility that will serve as their second home for the next five years.





OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES AT THE IDEAL INDUSTRIES SKILLS QUALIFIER

Applauding Our Apprentices' Achievements

The Electrical Training Institute is excited to announce the remarkable successes of our apprentices at the recent Ideal Industries Electrician National Skills Qualifier on May 21, 2024.

Mitchell McCabe, a fifth-year apprentice, took first place with an astonishing time of 52.06 seconds. Mitchell's exceptional performance is a testament to his skill, speed, and dedication. His achievement brings great honor to the ETI and sets a high benchmark for others to aspire to. Mitchell now advances to the semi-finals.

In his first year of apprenticeship, **Jovan Garcia** achieved second place with a time of 52.50 seconds. Jovan's impressive finish so early in his training underscores his natural talent and the quality of instruction he has received.

Derek Kearns, a second-year apprentice, earned third place with a time of 53.59 seconds. Derek's consistent improvement and commitment to excellence have been exemplary, making him a standout performer.

First-year apprentice **Mark Marquez** finished in fourth place with a commendable time of 1 minute and 4 seconds. Mark's determination and skill, particularly at this early career stage, are highly encouraging.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to senior instructor **Pete Drimilis**, whose hard work and dedication were pivotal in organizing this event and preparing our competitors. Pete's unwavering support and expert guidance have been vital in achieving these outstanding results.

The Electrical Training Institute is proud of all our apprentices who participated in the Ideal Industries Electrician National Skills Qualifier. Your accomplishments are a source of inspiration and pride for our entire community.

Steve Rose

Assistant Training Director

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**ERIC
KIM**

**RICHARD
BUYSSE**

**TRAINING DIRECTOR
DAVID NOTT**

**PAUL
LORENZANA**

HONORING STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AT THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING



THE STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD, PRESENTED BY MILWAUKEE TOOLS, CELEBRATES STUDENTS WHO CONSISTENTLY DISPLAY EXCELLENCE IN THEIR ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL PURSUITS. THIS HONOR TAKES INTO ACCOUNT REGULAR ATTENDANCE, HIGH GPA, AND OUTSTANDING EVALUATIONS FROM EMPLOYERS.

APRIL 2024



PAUL LORENZANA

MAY 2024



RICHARD BUYSSE

JUNE 2024



ERIC KIM



Mitchell McCabe



Jovan Garcia



Derek Kearns



Mark Marquez



EMPOWER

ETI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM OFFERING WOMEN EXTRA RESOURCES

Recruit, Retain, and Support

Female Apprentices and Journey-level workers in our Local

We've had an eventful few months since our last newsletter, and I'm excited to share!

April held very special moments. We were honored to welcome author and retired machinist Sue Doro. Sue shared personal stories of being a single mother in the Trades during the mid-1970s, read selections of her poetry, and excerpts from her new book, "A Machinist Named Sue." She graciously answered our questions and we conducted her famous Blue Jean Pocket Writer's Workshop. I can't express how powerful and meaningful that session was; it was a magical, moving, wholesome experience that we all felt deeply.

TRADESWOMAN AUTHOR: *Sue Doro*



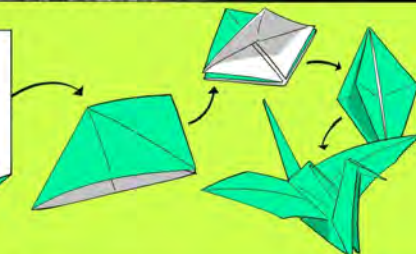
In May, we explored the history of May Day through the lens of union labor, to get a deeper understanding of the struggles of the labor movement. We spoke on solidarity, and how unified actions secured workers' rights that benefit us today.

EXPLORING MAY DAY: HONORING LABOR'S HISTORY



June's meeting let us unwind with creativity. We held our first origami workshop which was designed to enhance our spatial reasoning skills. People had a great time, and we plan to incorporate more sessions to help us strengthen parts of our mind in the future.

IMPROVING SPATIAL REASONING WITH ORIGAMI



Introducing FAB (Future Artisans of Bending):

We are thrilled to announce our new initiative, FAB, focusing on teaching the finer skills of the electrical construction trades, with the main skill being conduit fabrication. We have plans to expand into low voltage techniques. Participants are gaining valuable skills and confidence. We plan to run FAB monthly as a 4-hour workshop. If interested, please email us at EMPOWER@laett.com to join the FAB email list.



Looking Ahead: We're committed to guiding women through the process of joining Local 11, conducting outreach, supporting apprentice women to complete their apprenticeship, and providing ongoing support to journey-level women. All members are welcome to participate in our upcoming workshops and events.

If you know any woman who would be a good fit for our trade, please invite her to EMPOWER. She does not need to be a member of Local 11 to attend.

Meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm, with a free dinner served with RSVP. Please use the QR code to RSVP.



Anthy Hadjimarkos
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EMPOWER Chair
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SAFETY MATTERS

ELECTRIAL SAFETY



Electrical Safety Programs are developed to help individuals recognize and avoid electrical hazards. The goal is to reduce and manage the risk of electrical shocks, arc flash hazards, equipment damage, and fire. Below are some basic safety precautions that should be observed to eliminate or mitigate the risk of electrical hazards on the job.

- ✓ Keep your work area clean and orderly to prevent the accumulation of flammable and combustible materials in the workplace.
- ✓ Only use extension cords for temporary power with portable equipment.
- ✓ Plug power strips directly into electrical outlets.
- ✓ Inspect all electric tools and equipment before use and remove damaged items from service.
- ✓ Use insulated hand tools and double-insulated power tools.
- ✓ User portable ladders with non-conductive side rails near live electrical lines and equipment.
- ✓ Remove all metal jewelry, rings, and watches before working on or near electrical equipment.
- ✓ Never work around a source of electricity when you, your surroundings, or your tools are wet.
- ✓ Use GCFI when working outside, near wet areas or when using extension cords.
- ✓ Ensure live parts operating at 50 volts or greater are guarded against accidental contact.
- ✓ Only qualified workers should work on, service or repair electrical equipment.

Qualified workers should ensure that all electrical equipment is de-energized before initiating service or repairs and all applicable codes and standards must be followed when performing the work. Be sure that all workers understand the lockout/tagout procedures being followed on the job.

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



Allen Sloan
Director of Safety



SHOWCASING CUTTING-EDGE LAB BOARDS AT NECA CONVENTION SAN DIEGO

We are thrilled to announce that ETI will be showcasing four state-of-the-art lab boards at the upcoming National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) convention, scheduled for this September in the vibrant city of San Diego. Our esteemed ETI instructors will lead pre-convention workshops, providing hands-on demonstrations and in-depth training on these innovative technologies. This event is a fantastic opportunity for industry professionals to experience firsthand the advancements driving the future of electrical contracting. Here's a sneak peek at the groundbreaking lab boards and the expert instructors who will be guiding the workshops:

Network Video Technologies (NVT)

Our NVT lab board is designed to demonstrate the latest advancements in video surveillance and network video solutions. This board provides an in-depth look at how modern video technologies are integrated into security systems, offering enhanced reliability, scalability, and clarity. Attendees will see how these technologies are vital for maintaining secure and efficient operations in various settings, from small businesses to large-scale enterprises.



Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS)

The DAS lab board highlights the crucial role of distributed antenna systems in enhancing cellular and wireless coverage within large buildings and complexes. This technology is essential for ensuring robust communication capabilities, especially in environments where signal penetration is typically weak. Our demonstrations will showcase the setup, configuration, and benefits of DAS, emphasizing its importance in maintaining seamless connectivity in today's connected world.



Advanced Lighting Controls

Our Advanced Lighting Controls lab board represents the forefront of lighting technology, demonstrating how intelligent lighting systems can significantly improve energy efficiency and occupant comfort. This board features the latest in lighting controls, including automated dimming, occupancy sensing, and daylight harvesting. The live demonstrations will illustrate how these systems contribute to energy savings and create more adaptive, human-centric lighting environments.



Dual-Purpose Cyber Security and Smart Building Energy Management Strategies

This innovative lab board addresses two critical areas: cyber security and smart energy management. It showcases how advanced cybersecurity measures are integrated with energy management systems to protect sensitive data while optimizing energy usage. Attendees will learn about the latest strategies for safeguarding digital infrastructure and enhancing energy efficiency, making buildings not only smarter but also more secure.



Steve Rose

Assistant Training Director

Roses@laett.com

ETI Representatives Attend the New Training Director Conference in New Orleans

In June 2024, the Electrical Training Institute of Southern California was proudly represented by Assistant Training Director Steve Rose and IBEW Apprentice Coordinator Kelly Oliver at the annual New Training Director (NTD) Conference in New Orleans. This event, attended by industry professionals, centered on key areas such as JATC operations, curriculum delivery, grants, and the enhancement of apprenticeship programs.



The conference underscored the need for updated operational manuals and a deep understanding of Department of Labor standards. Tools for improving apprentice education, like the ETA+ and PTSI mobile apps, were introduced, emphasizing cybersecurity and streamlined support through the HELP ticketing system. Additionally, the ABA grant aimed at supporting veterans, women, and underrepresented populations was highlighted, alongside a retention study stressing the importance of consistent policies and transparent communication.



Looking ahead, the knowledge gained from the NTD Conference is set to influence ETI's training programs into the future. Rose and Oliver are dedicated to applying these insights to modernize operations, enhance curriculum delivery, and maintain strict adherence to industry standards, ensuring ETI continues to lead in electrical training and education.

ETI to Host NEC Escape Room Challenge at NECA Convention in San Diego

September 28 - October 1, 2024



We are thrilled to announce a thrilling addition to our lineup at the upcoming National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) convention this September in San Diego: the NEC Escape Room Challenge! This interactive experience is designed to test the knowledge and skills of apprentice attendees on the National Electrical Code (NEC) in a fun and engaging way.

Senior Instructor Geoff Gardner, known as the "Escape Room Genius," has dedicated countless hours and considerable brainpower to crafting our escape room's layout, plan, and design.

The NEC Escape Room Challenge is a unique, hands-on activity where apprentices navigate through a series of puzzles that require a solid understanding of the NEC. Participants must apply their knowledge to solve the challenges and escape the room within a set time limit. Keep an eye out for images in the next issue!





FAQ'S



RAP:

1. What are the requirements for First Aid and CPR certification? Answer: Every apprentice must become certified in Multi-Media First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation within 60 days of entering the program and maintain an active certification throughout the apprenticeship. Policy Section: A-4
2. What are the rules of conduct for apprentices? Answer: Rules include prohibitions on alcohol and drug use, insubordination, dishonesty, and other misconduct. Violations can result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the program. Policy Section: A-6
3. What are the requirements for lab class participation? Answer: Apprentices must participate fully in all hands-on labs, wear appropriate work apparel, and be prepared to start on time. Failure to participate will result in being marked absent. Policy Section: A-9

TSA:

1. What is included in Related Supplemental Instruction (RSI)? Answer: RSI includes classroom instruction, lab equipment, administrative staff, instructors, and books provided at no cost. Apprentices must respect ETI property, be on time for classes, be respectful, and dress appropriately. Policy Section: A-5
2. What are the classroom policies? Answer: Policies include prohibitions on food and beverages in the classroom, use of tobacco products inside ETI facilities, unauthorized use of electronic equipment, and leaving school without approval. Policy Section: A-7
3. Where can I park on campus? Answer: Student parking is restricted to spaces marked by white lines. Reserved spaces are for employees and instructors only. Parking in handicapped spaces and fire lanes is prohibited and will be cited and towed. Overflow parking is allowed on Malt Avenue. Policy Section: A-8

SAP:

1. How do I update my contact information? Answer: You need to maintain a current mailing address, telephone number, and email address on file at the Electrical Training Institute, Pension Trust Office, Union Dispatch Office, and Local #11 Credit Union. Any changes must be delivered personally using standard forms available at these locations. Policy Section: A-1
2. What is the probationary period for apprentices? Answer: The probationary period is the first year of apprenticeship, requiring a minimum of 1600 work hours and one year of related supplemental instruction. During this period, the apprenticeship agreement can be canceled by the JAC or the apprentice without a formal hearing. Policy Section: A-2
3. How do I maintain my IBEW dues payments? Answer: All apprentices must maintain current dues payments to IBEW Local #11 Dues Office. Failure to maintain current payments will result in penalties, including written warnings, appearances before a JAC Subcommittee, and withholding of level upgrades. Policy Section: A-3

AW:

1. Q: How is job performance evaluated?
 - a. A: Job performance is evaluated periodically by your contractor, foreman, or supervising Journey-level worker and during job visits from the Apprenticeship Coordinators.
 - b. Policy Section: A-15
2. Q: Can I quit my job?
 - a. A: No, quitting or requesting to be laid-off is not allowed and is considered a quit. Requests for changes of employment must be communicated through the Coordinators.
 - b. Policy Section: A-16
3. Q: What constitutes an unsatisfactory termination?
 - a. A: Termination for reasons other than reduction in force is serious. It includes arriving late, not completing assignments, disrespecting others, and not keeping union dues current.
 - b. Policy Section: A-17

What Students Are Saying...

Interview with First-Year Inside Student Savannah Branch

Steve Rose: Okay. So, the first question: from your experience, how has the balance been between work and school in your apprenticeship?

Savannah Branch: The balance has been really good compared to traditional grade school Monday through Friday, eight hours a day, or even just attempting to take the scattered college classes. I believe whoever designed this structured curriculum has some kind of experience in the education field. Being in the field working and then being able to apply that to school, and vice versa, has helped me in so many ways.

What I like and what helps a lot is the time gap in between. I work for eight weeks, go to school on the ninth week, and I have that time in between to study, focus, and learn things in the field without overwhelming myself. It's not like going to school in the morning and then to work at night or vice versa.

The balance of having it separate and having a schedule presented to me when I started my apprenticeship keeps me focused, prepared, and sharp. I'm able to have enough time to learn the material and educate myself on the things I might not know. Being in the field allows me to ask questions to get a hands-on idea of what I might be learning at school.

Steve Rose: How do your instructors make complex electrical concepts more understandable for you? Can you provide an example of a teaching method that worked well.

Savannah Branch: Honestly, Upon entering the trade I was confused about the general concept of electrical. There's so much to learn in a small amount of time. This is where the "tricks of the trade" come into play, not just in the field but also in the classroom. A lot of instructors come from the field and apply those tricks to the classroom to make things make sense. It can be confusing and frustrating at times, but with good instructors from the ETI who have years of experience, I'm able to understand electrical concepts better. Instructors teach not only by the book, but also in a field-like way, making complex concepts more understandable. A great example took place during boot camp when we were learning how to wire up a three-way switch. The video didn't make much sense, but a great instructor showed us hands-on on how to wire it up properly. It's the instructors' experience and their way of sharing it that helps students.

Steve Rose: I liked what you said about the tricks of the trade and the experience of instructors making concepts understandable. I used to do the same in the classroom, like asking students to bring a cool trick they learned on the job to class. Instructors coming from the field can bridge the gap between book knowledge and hands-on experience. So, let's do one more question. Between the tools of technology, practical applications, and peer learning, which one would you like to discuss?



What Students Are Saying...Continued

Interview with First-Year Inside Student Savannah Branch

Savannah Branch: Peer learning; definitely.

Steve Rose: Good choice. What would you like to say about peer learning?

Savannah Branch: For me, we are a class, a team, a brotherhood, and a sisterhood. We're all in this together. The same people I started with, I will graduate with and be friends with for years. My peers are everything. I notice that certain things I don't understand, others might, and vice versa. Collaborating and teaching each other means everything. I'm not the best at math, but a close buddy of mine is. If I don't understand something, he helps me, and I understand him well. Sometimes I might not understand the instructor or another student, and that's where peers can play a significant role. People learn at their own pace and in different ways. For example, in a lab, if I understand the concept of bending a four-point saddle, I can assist my peers who may be struggling. Students don't always comprehend the full lesson from the book, but they do from a hands-on lesson taught by other classmates. Having peers to learn from is a great asset for a career as a IBEW union Electrician.

Steve Rose: The example you gave shows emotional intelligence and professional maturity. Speaking up for classmates helps the instructor adjust their teaching to reach everyone better. You mentioned someone good at explaining math—was this a peer or someone else?

Savannah Branch: He's in the classroom with me. We always sit next to each other. He's really good at math, understands the formulas, how to solve problems, and is able to teach not only me but other peers as well. But when it comes to hands-on work, he doesn't understand the concept completely. That's where I come in. We support each other and make a great team.

Steve Rose: That reminds me of a story about a buddy of mine and an experience he had in apprenticeship. He was really good at math but struggled with blueprint reading. He helped other students in his class that struggled with math, and they helped him with blueprints. Peer support is valuable whether they are in your class or people you work with. Your example reflects how peers can complement each other's strengths.

Savannah Branch: Lastly I would like to mention that I am a product of 2nd Call and acknowledge my mentor Big John for consistently mentoring me on my career path.





Leadership Symposium

The recently concluded three-day leadership symposium hosted at our facility, successfully brought over 70 of Hilti's marketing leaders from around the country. The symposium focused on innovative leadership practices, the impact of emerging technologies, and sustainable construction methods. A notable highlight was the dedicated session for ETI instructors, where they received an exclusive learning opportunity on the latest Hilti tool developments. This session equipped the instructors with advanced knowledge to train future industry professionals effectively. The event was a huge success and Hilti already has plans to come back to the ETI for a four day conference with leaders from their engineering group.



Senior Instructor
Ben Hess



Senior Instructor
Pete Drimilis



Holiday Schedule



The ETI will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Labor Day

Monday, September 2, 2024

Veterans Day (Observed)

Monday, November 11, 2024

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Christmas

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Thanksgiving Break

ETI Office Closed:

Thursday, November 28th & Friday, November 29th

No Classes Scheduled:

Monday, November 25th to Sunday, December 1st

Winter School Break

ETI Office Closed: December 25th & January 1st

No Classes Scheduled:

Monday, December 23rd - Sunday January 5th



ENJOY THE SUMMER



OPEN CLASSES

Register Now – Limited Space Available!
Our Advanced Grounding, Advanced Conduit Bending, and LA Qualified Safety Person (OSHA) courses are scheduled to start soon. With limited spaces available, be sure to sign up before it's too late!



LA Qualified Safety Person (OSHA)

Start Date: Sat / Sun July 27, 2024

Start Date: Sat / Sun September 7, 2024

Start Date: Sat / Sun September 21, 2024

Advanced Conduit Bending

Start Date: M - W August 5, 2024

Start Date: M - W September 9, 2024

Start Date: T - Th October 15, 2024

Advanced Grounding

Start Date: T - TH August 29, 2024

To enroll in courses: [Click here](#)

TUTORING



The ETI Tutoring Center is now offering tutoring for the National Electrical Code (NEC). Please contact the ETI office or send an email to tutoring@laett.com for available dates and times and to register for a tutoring session.

Contact Us

APPRENTICESHIP &
TRAINING QUESTIONS
[323] 221-5881

DUES OFFICE
[626] 243-9700

DISPATCH
[323] 517-9610

HEALTH & PENSION
[323] 221-5861



In celebration of ETI's 60th anniversary, here's a look at its history and how it evolved into the institution it is today.

To watch the video: [Click here](#)



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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EDITORIALS & CONTRIBUTIONS



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David Nott, Kelly Oliver, Steve Rose, Allen Sloan



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