



WATTS CURRENT @ ETI

ELECTRICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE'S QUARTERLY STUDENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

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Holiday Schedule

The ETI will be closed in observance of the following holidays

VETERANS DAY

Thursday, November 11

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 24
(observed)

WINTER BREAK

(ETI Office Open—No Classes Scheduled)

Monday, December 20—
Sunday, January 2, 2022

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2022

Friday, December 31
(observed)

From the Training Director's Desk

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month! It has been great to have you all back for in-person training! Steadily, things are starting to appear to some degree normal again and we are gradually reverting to our daily life routines. Although it is a different kind of readjustment, I am certain that we can all agree that it is nice to come from behind the computer screens to reacquaint ourselves and have the capacity to interact with Instructors and fellow classmates. Fortunately, the ETI continues to function in full force and the staff and I are excited to be here to resume our training efforts and to assist in your advancement within the apprenticeship, Construction Wireman courses, and advanced courses for Construction Electricians and Journeypersons.

On this Hispanic Heritage month, we had the honor of welcoming Los Angeles County Board Supervisor Hilda Solis to the ETI Facility. Supervisor Solis has had a history of being an advocate for organized labor and is a well-known trailblazer for social justice. During her visit she initiated and listened intently to several personal stories from boot camp candidates and applauded the diversity within our program. We hope to proceed with safely welcoming more visitors to showcase our state-of-the-art facility now that our doors are once again open.

As you proceed to read this newsletter you will also learn that we have new developments within our administrative team. We have acquired an additional Senior instructor, classroom Instructors, and clerical staff to enhance the team presently in place which will benefit our overall services to our members.

Regardless of the strides we have made in learning to live with this pandemic, I ask that you not let your guard down and continue to make smart well-informed choices. Please continue to abide by the local, state, and federal guidelines and respect your peers by always wearing your face coverings while in the ETI Facility and in the classroom. Let us be reminded that people are still being affected by this virus.

Continue to stay focused on your career goals and be safe out in the field. We wish you and your families all a great and safe fall season.

Sincerely,
Diana Limon
IBEW Card #D90035



Welcome Geoffrey Gardner!



Please join us in welcoming Geoff Gardner to ETI's Senior Staff. He first joined the ETI staff as a part time instructor in January of 2020 and has recently been hired as a Senior Instructor. When asked how he was enjoying his time with us, Geoff replied that he has truly enjoyed teaching and feels privileged to work alongside the very knowledgeable and dedicated staff at the ETI.

Geoff completed both the Sound apprenticeship and accelerated Inside Wireman apprenticeship programs at Local 11. He received the Outstanding Apprentice Award when graduating for the Inside Wireman program.

The last 10 years of Geoff's career have been spent at Comet Electric as both a Sound and Inside foreman. The last six of those years he has spent running numerous jobs at LAX doing everything from network cameras, 400hz jet bridge power, fiber optic backbone, to pump room control cutovers. The biggest job was the Building Automation Systems portion of the complete renovation at the Southwest Terminal 1 project.

FUN FACT: Geoff has been a drummer from the age of 13. He has sat in on jams with the members of Red Bone and War.

Spotlight: David Nott

Article by Steve Rose, Senior Instructor

When I first joined the workforce, becoming an electrician was not my first choice. I was originally accepted to the LA County Sheriff's department, but things were put on hold due to county budget issues back in the mid-90's. A friend of the family working for one of our NECA contractors told me about the opportunity of apprenticeship. I liked what I learned about it and decided to apply. It took me about eight months to get in. Things were a bit different back then. The program had about four hundred apprentices at the time and the apprentice policies totaled nine pages. I did my schooling in District 2 (Cerritos) and had the opportunity to work at some notable projects, including the new Getty Center and Getty Malibu.



When I took the position of NECA apprentice coordinator, there were about 750 apprentices in the program and the ETI had just been built and opened. Today, we can proudly say that we have close to 2,000 apprentices and are the largest electrical apprenticeship in the country with one of the most advanced training centers anywhere.

I have been fortunate to have played a role in some of our industries advancements. We were one of the first areas to have a comprehensive drug policy for our industry, which made our workers safer and gave customers the confidence that they were hiring a quality contractor and workforce. I was the chairman of the Building Committee when the ETI was transformed into the Net Zero Plus ETI. There are several others, but having the opportunity to be a part of these projects to move our industry forward has been challenging and most importantly rewarding.

LA/NECA not only represents contractors working in Local 11, but Local 40 in Hollywood and Local 952 in Ventura. All told, I sit on 9 apprentice committees/subcommittees that meet monthly. These meetings are one of the most important roles of an Apprentice Coordinator. It allows me to get directly involved when an apprentice has gone through a major life event and provide guidance so they still have a career long after that event has passed.

I have always believed that the success of our industry could be measured by the local relationship between the IBEW Business Manager and NECA Chapter Manager. In many areas around the country, those relationships are poor and their market share and training programs reflect that. We are fortunate to have leaders locally in both IBEW and NECA that understand the only way to move forward and be at the front of our industry is together. Alton Wilkerson is now the IBEW Apprentice Coordinator and brings with him a strong sense of duty, professionalism, and vision that will help carry this program through the next generation.

I am grateful to have been put in a position where I can affect positive change for our apprenticeship program and unionized electrical industry. I am very proud of our apprentices and a program that is considered the gold standard for training.

David Nott

Apprentice Coordinator

Inside Wireman

D899664

SAFETY MATTERS



By Allen Sloan, Director of Safety

A “near miss” or accident without injury is easy to shrug off and forget. But, there is a danger in brushing off accidents that don’t hurt, harm or damage. When a “close call” happens, it should immediately send up a red warning flag that something was wrong, unplanned, unexpected, and could happen again. The next time it happens, it could result in serious damage, injury or death.

For every accident there are usually several contributing factors, most of which can be controlled. The best way to prevent the reoccurrence of an accident is by looking at those “near misses.” By investigating the root causes of an accident, steps can be taken to eliminate the hazard and improve the work system.

There can be various causes for an accident which may include equipment (unguarded machinery), environment (poor lighting or noise level), people (procedures not understood or not followed) or management (allowed shortcuts). Don’t rush to judge. Examine the facts and find what’s missing. Look for immediate and underlying causes. An immediate cause may be an unsafe condition like a mechanical failure or it could be an unsafe action by an employee. The underlying cause could also be poor machine maintenance, a missing guard, a crowded work area or a lack of training.

All incidents should be reported to your supervisor so that accident/injury report forms can be completed. Once an investigation is completed, solutions should be sought to prevent the accident from occurring again. Solutions may involve engineering controls, administrative controls, additional training, increased communication between management and workers, or a combination of two or more of these solutions.

Workers should inspect the work area for unsafe conditions or unsafe actions daily and, if hazards are discovered, they should be reported to a supervisor immediately. Hazard awareness is key to preventing accidents before they happen. Take steps to eliminate hazards as soon as they are discovered. Learn the real lesson from near misses. They can happen again and again until they cause injury. You never know when an incident may be repeated and result in an injury or even death.

For any questions about this or any other safety issues, please call Allen Sloan at (323) 517-9533



Outreach Corner:

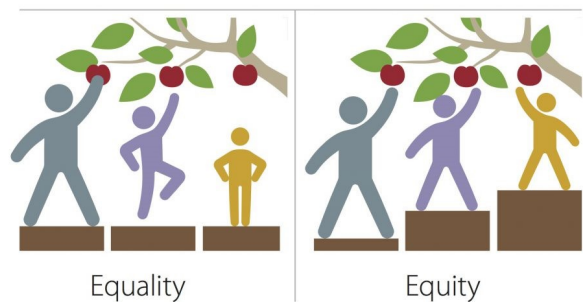
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Article by King Moore II,

Diversity is **about what makes each of us unique** and includes our backgrounds, personality, life experiences and beliefs; all the things that make us who we are. Diversity is also about recognizing, respecting, and valuing differences based on ethnicity, gender, age, race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation.

Equity is **the fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people**, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

Inclusion is **'being included within either a group or society as a whole'**. Inclusion links with diversity and equality. It is important to understand someone's differences so that you can include them and treat them equally and fairly. People can feel excluded if they are not able to join in with activities.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is vital to creating and maintaining a successful workplace; one founded on the principle that all people can thrive personally and professionally. Before you begin to reevaluate your efforts and implement new practices, it's important that you fully understand each component, both individually and how they work together.



Welcome to the New ETI Website!

As announced in the Watts Current Newsletter Summer 2021 Edition, the ETI recently unveiled the new website which aims to streamline and simplify many of the school's processes. Not only has the ETI website had a complete overhaul in terms of appearance, but also functions in a more simplified way. Some of the most helpful changes that have been introduced include the digitizing of several important office forms, links to important websites, updated COVID-19 information, and a more direct Contact Us page. Click [HERE](#) to navigate to the redesigned website.

Digital Documents

In an effort to streamline some of the ETI's processes, many of the forms students would previously submit in person are now digital forms which can be submitted electronically. These can be found on the ETI website in the Important Documents & Forms folder within the Students tab. These include:

- Change of Address Form
- Leave of Absence Form
- JAC Appeal Hearing Request Form
- VA Monthly Certification Form (VA 22-6553d-1)
- Military Leave of Absence Packet
- ACE Official Transcript Request
- Instructor Application (Found in the Journey-level Members tab)
- Class Registration Form (Found in the Journey-level Members tab)

With the addition of these digital forms, students will no longer need to visit the Commerce facility in person or have forms sent to them. Those needing any of the above services can simply visit the ETI website and submit their forms and any necessary additional documentation directly to the ETI staff.

Important Links

For members who may need assistance outside of the ETI, links to associated websites are now listed on the homepage. These links include:

- IBEW Local 11 website
- International Office of the IBEW website
- Health & Pension website
- Family Medical Care Plan website
- National Electrical Benefit Funds (NEBF) website
- NetZero Plus website
- State Licensing Information (state website)

COVID-19 Information

The ETI website also features an added COVID-19 tab which provides the ETI's COVID-19 Plan, Los Angeles County's updated Public Health Order, the Agreement for Employees and Students form, and the Waiver for Visitors form. This section of the website is an important resource for those looking for updated information on the precautions the school is taking to ensure the safety of its students in compliance with the county's recommendations.

Contact Us Page

The new website also has a more simplified Contact Us page which allows anyone to send a direct message to the ETI staff. A drop-down section is provided for the Message Subject so that messages will be routed to the appropriate staff members based on applicable categories.

The new website has been designed to make student engagement as simple and efficient as possible and to minimize the inconveniences of paper forms or trips to the ETI office. The ETI encourages all members to tour the remodeled website to see these and many more additions including a social media feed from IBEW Local 11's Facebook and Twitter accounts, a school calendar displaying color-coded weeks for day school classes, an RSS feed of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, and a section for all of the issues of the ETI's Watts Current newsletter. If you have any questions about navigating the ETI website, please contact the ETI office.



What is WECAT?

Article by Anthy Hadjimarkos, Special Projects Assistant

Western Electrical Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Training, or WECAT, is a federal grant program started by the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) of UC Davis. The CLTC is a not-for-profit research, development and demonstration facility dedicated to accelerating the development and commercialization of next-generation, energy-efficient lighting, and daylighting technologies for California. The goal of the WECAT program is to train apprentices who are enrolled as part of an electrical apprenticeship to address emerging smart cities and cybersecurity issues. Currently, the WECAT program consists of three courses: Advanced Lighting Control Systems (ALCS), Demand Side Management (DSM) and Power Systems Cybersecurity. The goal of WECAT is to develop smart cities training courses, launch the new courses at partner sites, train apprentices, and finally, to develop a sustainable model for the training so that it has a life beyond the end of the grant.

WECAT Courses

Advanced Lighting Control Systems – Network lighting control training program

Demand Side Management –California is heading towards a real-time pricing model with electricity tariffs. Devices and systems of entire buildings will need to respond in real-time to the price of electricity. With these new technologies and strategies, our electrical workforce will need to understand how those buildings are set up so that they are able to respond to those new signals. This course provides an overview of building automation system devices, architectures and emerging control strategies aimed at altering the building's load profile based on the demand on the grid as a whole. (Previously, this was launched as a course titled Automated Demand Response but has since been expanded to include principles of building automation systems as well as emerging energy efficient control strategies.)

Power Systems Cybersecurity: The world is increasingly reliant on technology, and this trend will continue as we move forward toward a smart era. Cybersecurity is an essential aspect of smart technology because it protects all categories of data from theft and damage. The term cybersecurity casts a large net, it includes sensitive data, personally identifiable



Benefits of WECAT Curriculum

All the automated systems described above are now becoming “smart”, and they need power and security. The goal is for electricians to recognize that need, and work on design and installation. The electrician with WECAT training will provide value to projects that include these technologies and will do this work instead of bringing in a third party to address these needs later in a project.

Acquired by the 4th or 5th year apprentice WECAT graduate will be the technical ability to implement, test, and verify the networking and cybersecurity aspects of power systems in a smart city infrastructure. This means these projects will be reliable, secure, and resilient against cyberthreats. These are skill sets that we do not currently have in our workforce. The DOL has seen how beneficial this is and has invested in the established WECAT program.

Employers in the smart technology industry who have employees that completed WECAT courses will be able to develop proposals around these skills, reduce the overall costs for Smart City Projects, and increase their revenue.

Ultimately, WECAT courses will add additional job security for electrical workers in the future.

Apprentices of the Month

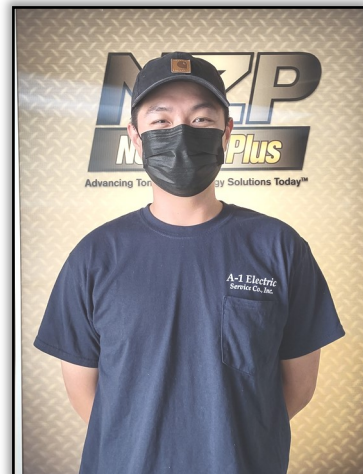
The apprentices chosen for each month are those who have demonstrated excellence in all aspects of their program requirements. These include attendance, grade point average, and contractor evaluations. Please join us in congratulating these exceptional apprentices on their outstanding progress!



July 2021:
Clare McKindley
AW



August 2021:
Robert Romo
TSA



September 2021:
Joshua Chang
AW



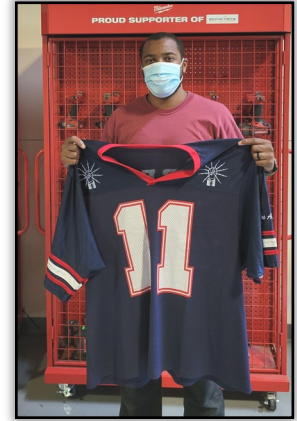
Congratulations to the Additional Union Reach Raffle Winners!



**Jacob
Bartholomew**
AW



**Alexander
Guardado**
AW



**Jose
Miller**
AW

Congratulations to the WECAT Raffle Winner!



**Lawrence
Palette**
AW

Stay Up to Date!



Union Reach



In an effort to provide our students with important news, events, and pertinent information in real-time, we have installed a powerful, easy-to-use **FREE** mobile communications app **Union Reach®**.

Union Reach offers membership benefits with significant savings for Union members on popular products and services.

How to sign up:

- Download the **Union Reach®** mobile app by scanning the QR code
- Select "Sign me up." The system will send you a six-digit one time passcode to the email you provide
- You will then be asked to choose an organization.
- Select "Electrical Training Institute"
- Our ETI access **code is 7175**
- **Make sure to allow notifications on your mobile device to receive important updates from us!**



Contact Us

if you need assistance with...

- * your dues, contact the **Dues Office at (626) 243-9721**
- * apprentice applications, JW Classes, VA benefits, ET Cards, Completion Certificates, Electrical Certification, and Re-Rates, contact the ETI at clerical@laett.com
- * scheduling classes, contact clerical@laett.com
- * technical issues with online classes, contact support@laett.com
- * benefits, retirement, or if you need a work hours report, contact [Pension & Health Office](#) at **(323) 221-5861**
- * being dispatched and TWIC card stipends, contact the **Dispatch Office at (323) 517-9610**

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: When are we moving into courses based on the National Electrical Code 2020?

A: Our courses taught at the ETI relate to the version of the code that the State of California uses for state certification testing. Once the State of California moves to exams based on 2020 NEC, we will follow suit.

Q: What is the current COVID-19 related policy to follow while at the ETI campus?

A: The ETI's COVID-19 policies are always in alignment with state and regional mandates. As this concerning situation evolves, we do as well. Continue to check our posted signs for the most up to date information. As of this edition of the Watts-Current Newsletter, the indoors requirement is to have properly worn masks on at all times. Outdoors, masks are not currently required. The Milwaukee breakroom can be used to access the vending machines only; students are not allowed to sit and eat in the breakroom at this time. A lunch truck is also available in the parking lot for food and drink purchases. For more information on the Los Angeles County Public Health Order and ETI's COVID-19 plan, please visit the [ETI website](#).



Q: I am having trouble logging into my student portal to submit my work hours. What should I do?

A: Due to the recent overhaul of the ETI website, the login page has changed. If you had bookmarked the login page from the previous ETI website, you will now need to navigate through the ETI website to access the new page. From the ETI homepage you will need to click on the Students tab, then click the button for [Student Record](#). You must use your union-issued card number to access your student portal. New apprentices will be issued a temporary ID number from the ETI, but you will need to use the ID provided on the dues receipt you will receive from the union once you have been obligated by IBEW. If you are still experiencing trouble logging in, you can contact the ETI Clerical staff for assistance by calling (323) 221-5881 or you can send them a message through the ETI website's [Contact Us](#) page.

Q: I need to submit a Leave of Absence request and was instructed to include documentation to support my request. What documentation is acceptable to support my request?

A: The JAC will not approve any LOA's that are submitted without supporting documentation. The guidance is that you must include something along with your LOA to support the reason you are asking to be excused. **DO NOT** submit pictures as proof. Doing so will mean your LOA won't be reviewed. Additionally, if the photo is deemed to be inappropriate, it will likely result in a trip to visit the subcommittee.

Example 1: If you are sick or injured, a note from your doctor should suffice. The note you submit does not have to divulge your diagnosis, but should clearly state the dates you are unable to report to school and/or work. **DO NOT** submit pictures of your injuries or any part of your body or anyone else's body as proof.

Example 2: If you are in a car accident, you can submit a police report or an insurance claim to support your request. **DO NOT** submit pictures of a banged-up vehicle as there is no way for those reviewing the request to determine if the vehicle pictured is in fact your vehicle.

Example 3: If you must miss work or school to attend a funeral, **DO NOT** under any circumstances submit pictures of a deceased person. To support your request, simply submit a copy of the obituary or a death certificate if possible.

Example 4: In the case of maternity/paternity leave, you must include FMLA paperwork specifically including the Payment History Report from the state's EDD Department. Please refrain from sending any photographs of your newborn.

It would be nearly impossible to cover all possible scenarios, but we hope this gives some insight on how to properly navigate the LOA process. Photos rarely, if ever, prove to be sufficient documentation to support LOA requests. There are many other more suitable options for this purpose. If you have questions about the LOA process or what documents you can submit to support your LOA request, please contact our office and someone should be able to assist you. Also, we've made it a lot simpler to submit your LOA request, as well as other important documents by visiting the Important Documents and Forms folder within the Students tab on the ETI website [HERE](#).

Q: My Leave of Absence was denied. Why was it denied, and what are my options if I don't agree with the JAC decision?

There are multiple reasons why your Leave of Absence could be denied which may include a lack of supporting documentation, documentation with dates that do not align with your requested dates, or the request is for a reason the JAC does not typically approve. If you disagree with the JAC decision, you will need to submit an appeal as no ETI staff member has the authority to reverse a JAC decision. The Appeal form can be submitted electronically on the ETI website [HERE](#). Please note that the Appeal form must be submitted within 30 days of the JAC decision.



Joint Apprenticeship Committee

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Robert Corona

Gaylord "Rusty" Roten

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Apprentice Coordinator/IBEW 11

Apprentice Coordinator/LA NECA