WESTERN STATES
College of Construction

The Construction College Advantage



APS District-Wide
College Fair



Apprenticeship Colorado
Apprenticeship Career Expo



Sheridan High School
Back to School BBQ



Green Mountain High School
College Fair

Over the last few months, the WSCC Recruiting Team continued to build strong relationships with educational and industry partners by attending several career fair events across Colorado. These events give our team the opportunity to help students discover pathways into the trades.

In addition to career-related events, our team also participated in class presentations and tours with:

- Plumbers Local 3
- Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
- Englewood High School
- The Excel Center (Goodwill of Colorado)
- Aurora Public Schools ConstrucTECH at Vista PEAK Preparatory
- Denver Public Schools CEC (College & Career) Mentorship Program

By collaborating with local school districts, workforce agencies, and employer partners, WSCC is increasing awareness of the educational opportunities we have to offer that lead to high-demand careers.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Outreach Insight

Community Highlight

Apprentice Spotlight

Campus Spotlight

Program Updates

Community Highlight - ACCE Program Highlight

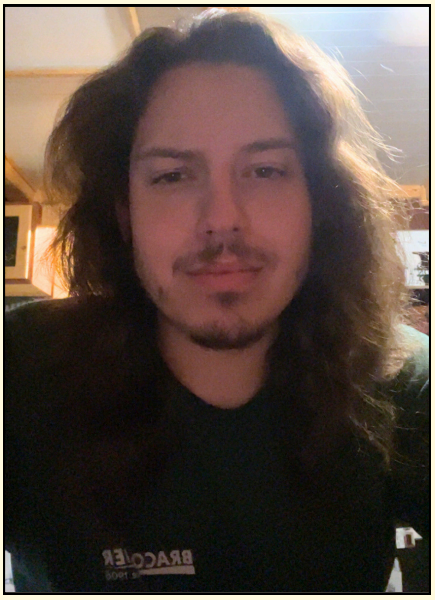
This past August, WSCC was selected for the American Council for Construction Education's (ACCE) Program Highlight!

This ACCE initiative highlights specific accredited programs within the ACCE system as part of their organization's continued communication effort, and it is intended to help the ACCE community develop an even greater appreciation for the efforts made in accreditation, reaccreditation, and certification.

WSCC is honored to be highlighted by ACCE, and we are proud of the continued work of all of our staff and partners toward our continued mission to promote excellence in construction education. To read more about our program highlight, please click below!

Our ACCE Program Highlight

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT - LOCAL 3



Hayden Cortez
Local 3

We are happy to recognize this edition's outstanding apprentice, **Hayden Cortez!**

Hayden is a plumber at Local 3 who chose his current trade because of his desire to do more fulfilling physical work and be self-sufficient. His favorite part of the program has been meeting people in class and at work, noting how he has worked with outstanding people from different backgrounds who have generational wisdom about more than just plumbing. He specifically mentioned Shannon Hartmann, a fellow Local 3 member, who has taught him invaluable lessons in both plumbing and construction in general.

Hayden hopes to be in the CAD department after doing his time as an apprentice and journeyman. He is inspired by his family and other tradespeople he has worked with, and he is an avid music listener who enjoys listening to full albums and attending weekend concerts!

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT - LOCAL 208

In this edition, we want to highlight the directors and instructors working at Local 208 in our first-ever **campus spotlight.** Local 208 is WSCC's Denver Pipefitter and HVACR campus, and we appreciate their efforts every day. Learn more about their dedicated team below!



Eric Ortega
Program Director

Eric has been in the pipefitting trade for 25 years and has helped members of Local 208 learn new methods and technology since completing his apprenticeship in 2003. He has 17 years as a trainer of apprentices, teaching orbital welding, safety, and rigging among other topics.

He became Assistant Training Director in 2016 and Training Director in 2019, overseeing up to 50 instructors in quality delivery of training for 240+ apprentice pipefitters and hundreds of journeymen pipefitters each year. He was selected to teach at the UA Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor, MI and has been teaching peers the duties and responsibilities of being a Training Director or Coordinator since 2021.

Notably, Eric was elected by the UA Local 208 membership to serve on the Examining Board, Executive Board, and as a National Convention Delegate twice. He was also appointed to the ACCE Construction Workforce Education Committee in 2022, and Training Committee for Construction Workforce Education in 2023.



Hank Brotzman
Assistant Program Director

Hank has been in the pipefitting trade for 12 years and is also an instructor at Local 208 while he serves on the leadership team. Before taking on his current role, he helped establishing the Student Council at Local 208 to give more of a voice to apprentices at the local and he believes the council makes it easier for everyone to support each other.

He became an instructor due to one of his own instructor's recommending he pursue teaching while he was completing his apprenticeship. He currently teaches Pipefitting 101, Trigonometry, Advanced Offsets, Tube Bending, & Safe Bolting.

His teaching philosophy is that we can all learn something new, and he leaves a positive impact on students by giving them the tools they need to be successful in the field. He draws inspiration from his father and enjoys huting and fishin in his free time.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT - LOCAL 208



Carlos Rivera
Assistant Program Director

Carlos completed his apprenticeship in 2009 and is a 21-year member of Pipefitters Local Union #208.

Throughout his career as a Pipefitter, he gained experience in Jet fuel Piping systems at Denver International Airport, data center heating and cooling systems, and brewery piping systems for Miller Coors and Budweiser. Since completing the UA Instructor Training Program in 2015, he has been a Certified Instructor and enjoys having students learn a valuable skill that they can carry on throughout their career.

In 2017, Carlos became a Certified Welding Inspector conducting Certified weld tests and being involved in code repairs on Piping and Pressure Vessels. In 2022 he received his associate degree in applied science from Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Currently Carlos is the Assistant Training Director at Pipefitters local 208 JATC and Pipefitting Campus Lead at WSCC.



Tim Garcia
Instructor

Tim has 13 years of experience as a Pipefitter and decided to become an instructor after helping out one of his fellow classmates during his apprenticeship. After turning out, all he wanted to do was continue helping other apprentices in the same way.

Currently, Tim teaches Math, Science, Rigging, Soldering and Brazing, Job Safety & Health, OSHA, Standard for Excellence, Plan Reading & Drawing, and Shop to first-year apprentices during the day. His teaching philosophy is simple: help students become better than him. Through this philosophy, he hopes to leave a positive impact on the students he teaches by being honest and open about the struggles he has had during his career.

Tim draws inspiration from Christ and his family, hoping to leave a lasting impression on those around him that it is okay to work hard in life. With his free time he loves to do things with his family or go the gym.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT - LOCAL 208



Aquilino Lucero
Instructor

A pipefitter and proud member of Local 208 with nearly nine years in the trade, Aquilino was drawn to instruction for three reasons: a passion for teaching developed in a previous profession, a desire to give back to his local union, and a strong belief in the important role the JATC plays in preparing future pipefitters.

In the classroom, he teaches a variety of subjects, with hydronics being a particular favorite. His teaching philosophy is simple yet impactful: "What you memorize you can use a few times; what you know you can use forever." He cares deeply about the work instructors do and brings that passion and work ethic to the classroom every day.

Aquilino credits much of his success as an instructor to his wife, expressing how her support and dedication to their family allows him to succeed as an instructor. Outside of work and teaching, he enjoys reading, spending time with his wife, and playing games with his children.



Jeremy McBee
Instructor

For Jeremy, teaching is all about helping apprentices succeed. After seeing opportunities to strengthen apprentice training through daytime teaching, he became an instructor to help provide the best education possible for the next generation of tradespeople.

He has spent eight years in the HVAC service industry and now teaches refrigeration, steam, hydronics, and electrical. Electrical is his favorite subject because it was one of the most challenging subjects for him when he was an apprentice. His teaching philosophy centers on guiding students to find answers for themselves and building confidence in their abilities, plus he is passionate about giving each apprentice the knowledge and confidence to become a better journeyman than he was.

Jeremy draws inspiration from his grandfathers, who are both US Army retired warrant officers and the best husbands to his grandmothers. Outside the classroom, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, woodworking, spending time with his children, and staying active in his church community.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT - LOCAL 208



Joe Rivera
Instructor

With 19 years in the trade, Joe brings passion, experience, and a deep commitment to apprenticeship to the classroom. A graduate of the program himself, Joe became an instructor to give back to Local 208 and help provide future pipefitters with the same opportunities that shaped his career.

Joe teaches the entire first-year apprenticeship curriculum alongside a co-instructor, covering everything from math and science to rigging, drafting, safety, and OSHA 30. Hands-on lab training is his favorite, giving apprentices the opportunity to apply skills in a real-world setting. His teaching philosophy centers on his belief that everyone can learn when given the right support, challenge, and encouragement. Joe strives to help apprentices build confidence and succeed together.

He is inspired by the incredible efforts of the leadership team at Local 208 - Eric, Carlos, & Hank. Outside the classroom, Joe enjoys the aquarium hobby, where years of caring for fish and shrimp have taught him patience, attention to detail, and responsibility.

Click Below to Learn More About UA Local 208

WSCC Program Updates

Professionalism in Construction

Last month, the *Professionalism in Construction* course began across three campuses - Locals 9 & 208 in Denver and Local 58 in Colorado Springs. There are 62 apprentices between these three course sessions, and another course is scheduled to begin at Local 3 in November.

Applicants to *Professionalism in Construction* need to be currently enrolled in or have previously completed a WSCC Registered Apprenticeship Program. Learn more or join the waitlist for our next session **HERE.**

BOOST Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The first 2027 session of the BOOST program will take place in the spring, with the program dates being announced next month. The dates will be posted on our website soon, and there is a way to sign up to get updates when registration launches for the next session!

Learn more about BOOST or join the waitlist for our next session **HERE.**

Thank you for reading!

Have something to contribute for a future WSCC Newsletter?

Submit your story and images by emailing the Editor at marisa@westernstatescollege.org

Submission deadline for January 2027 edition: **Friday, Jan. 15, 2027.**

THE EDITOR



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WSCC Administrative Assistant