The future of plumbing technology

Hackensack, NJ—What does it mean to be a green plumber? According to veteran Full-Time Day Program Instructor Mr. Bob Aleman, “A green plumber is a professional who implements and strictly adheres to the health and comfort of customers in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.” His classroom is a beacon of plumbing conservation techniques.

While troubleshooting and making customers and consumers satisfied, the green plumber works in routine details that protect the ecosystem, contribute to conservation, and use equipment and supplies that are highly efficient, and recyclable. The emergence of innovative green technologies in the plumbing industry has influenced reduced water usage, carbon imprinting, and lower levels of greenhouse emissions. While an EPA estimate in 2009 showed that only 3% of the Earth’s potable water is used as drinking and waste water, the green plumbing effort, especially in the USA, has created a blueprint to protect, conserve, and sustain the most valuable resource: WATER.

Certifications available

The US Department of Energy offers certifications in Climate Protection and licensing endorsements that train emerging green plumbers in the use of “Star Label” and the “Water Sense” logo products and equipment that reduce carbon emissions and use alternative fuels to power them. These products are also labor friendly to workers in terms of flexibility and weight, and cost effective to contractors through lower prices for materials, and costs to the consumer.

The message to the Plumbers of the world: “Go Green”

HVAC/R students train with Lab Volt systems

Hackensack, NJ—The Heating, Air-Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician course of study, under the instructional supervision of Mr. Awa Uma is a ten-month 1003 hour program geared for entry-level employment in the service and repair industry. Currently, students are using Lab Volt trainers acquired under a Perkins Grant. This training system, as Mr. Uma describes “…provides applied refrigeration skills for the next generation technician, and increases entry level competency knowledge for our graduates.” These skills also help to fight obsolescence as refrigeration equipment becomes computerized. Many trainers now are designed for use with desktop/laptop computers. Additionally, trainers use transducers to monitor system pressure and temperature during the refrigeration operation. Operational data and charts are displayed on the computer. Students then use the data and charts to interpret and explain refrigeration conditions and major system components. Trouble-shooting and calculating the heat being removed by the system is also an element of technician expertise. These training systems assist students in becoming gainfully employed in related business and industry positions.
#BCTSLifetimeCareerServices

Hackensack, NJ—Career Services at the Adult & Continuing Education Full-Time Day Program is more than the last pit stop before completion. Rather, it is the first stop that graduating students make with veteran educator and Job Placement Specialist, Lisa Joy Alessandrino (pictured above). Services begin with an intake form to match employment needs, skills and abilities, culminating with student potential for employability upon program completion. “Lifetime” placement services are also offered for any alumni of a Full-Time Day Program course of study.

A Bergen Employment Network (BEN) member, Ms. Alessandrino connects with key stakeholders in the community to discuss market trends and works collaboratively with Bergen One Stop Career Center to get students hired. Ms. Alessandrino, also collaborates with employers in the fields of plumbing & heating, HVAC/R, electrical and business to fill hiring needs.

Financial aid provides options for students to enroll in the trades

Washington, DC—The US Department of Education offers federal subsidies each year to help many students pay for higher education. Federal Aid consists of grants and loans. Prior to making an appointment with veteran Financial Aid Officer Shakeena Grice (pictured on the right) potential or currently enrolled students must complete the following: (a) attend an Information session; (b) enroll as a full-time student in one of four programs of study over 600 hours; (c) obtain a FSA User ID that is necessary for all students applying for Federal Student Aid. Students may do so by visiting: https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm, and (d) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that will determine if a student is eligible for federal aid. Logon to: https://fafsa.ed.gov/. Lastly, students can see who can qualify for federal aid by visiting: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility. Ms. Grice can be reached at shagri@bergen.org. Good luck to all our students.
**Electrician students complete wiring projects, modules**

**Hackensack, NJ**— The Electrician CTE program is taught by veteran instructor and licensed practitioner Mr. Dan DeSena. Students focus on gainful employment skills as installers of various electrical systems and trouble-shooting techniques. Presently, students are discussing the most efficient ways to provide service entrance for customers in residential and commercial venues. One benefit of this program is its “hands-on” applications where students perform various types of wiring projects in a sample-framed housing unit that is shared equally with the plumbing students. Additionally, students have access to modules or trainers that enhance skill development, allow for trial and error, and provide feedback to the instructor to adjust teaching and assessment of material covered.

**Career Placement Options**

Completers of the Electrician program of study have multiple pathways for employment: (a) get hired by a contractor and work as an electrician’s helper; (b) get hired by a contractor and apply to the County Apprenticeship Program, or (c) apply for rank and file membership in a local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union hall, work out of there for private or governmental contractors and attend their apprenticeship program. Completing B or C allows candidates to sit for the state-sponsored licensing exam after 4 or 5 years, depending on experience and hours accumulated.

**Admissions Counseling provides program options, tour of CTE facilities**

**Bergen County (NJ)** - The Full-Time Day Program conducts Wednesday Information Sessions at 1pm each week, spearheaded by Admissions Counselor, Mr. Anthony “Coach” Mongilia and Administrative Assistant, Ms. Tarla Broadnax. Mr. Mongilia’s instructional classroom is county-wide. When not busy with potential students on Wednesdays, “Coach” is visiting local high schools, attending career fairs, or simply working the phones or responding to emails, advocating for students and their families on the most appropriate career track decision to take or make. Many students do not realize before attending a session or calling for more information that the Full-Time Day Program offers four distinct programs of study, with different hourly requirements and financial commitments. Moreover, a multitude of start and end dates during the year allow students the flexibility of employment and family commitments to be maintained. Come visit our institution, your future awaits!

**Wednesday Information Session**

- **Time:** 1:00pm to 2:00pm
- **Place:** Adult & Continuing Education
- **Full-Time Day Program**
- **190 Hackensack Avenue**
- **Hackensack, NJ 07601**
- **201.343.6000 x2947 or email: antmon@bergen.org**
- **No appointment necessary**

**Academic advisement supports student achievement, assessments**

**Hackensack, NJ**—Since coming to the Full-Time Day Program in August 2014, Dr. James M. Karpowich, Lead Teacher, CTE has implemented several educational revisions to monitor student monthly progress in their field of study. Each instructor, as in the past, submits a form with narrative describing student progress in twelve benchmark areas. When or if a student falls below a 3.0 cumulative rating, Dr. Karpowich meets with the student and instructor, providing guidance, support, and strategies to rectify the situation. If the student fails below for a second consecutive month, a written corrective action plan is created with student and instructor input. Since implementing the protocols, 91 percent of the students in this situation have been able to graduate, and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Moreover, a rubric-based formative assessment is in the works. A pilot study was completed in 2016 with the Plumbing Technology/Plumber students and their instructor. Educational researchers (Kelly & Bank, 2005) from University of Central Florida suggested that “…rubrics articulate desired outcomes, focus instruction and student attention to learning.”
Making office personnel into business professionals

The story behind Management Information Systems, General — Employability

Hackensack, NJ — Since 2010, the Management Information Systems, General (Business Professional/Administrative Assistant) program has been supporting area businesses and industries to train potential candidates in office routines, clerical responsibilities, and computer skills. Students in this program will soon be working on earning certification as a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) with an emphasis in Microsoft Word through a software program called Certiport. Additionally, students may earn certifications in the Office Proficiency Assessment & Certification (OPAC) that provides training in Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, and QuickBooks. These types of certifications allow students to market their skills and abilities as they ready themselves for professional workplace experiences and routines.

Our new Instructor, Mr. Chad Cohen, a veteran educator of office management routines and technology applications, has established himself as a role model and advocate for all his students to perfect their skills and promote confidence in their abilities. Additionally, Job Placement Specialist Ms. Lisa Alessandrino on occasion presents transferable skills in networking, ethics in office/workplace settings, portfolio construction, dressing for success, and effective interviewing techniques.

Advisory Boards connect with business & industry

Hackensack, NJ — Twice each school year, all four CTE program instructors meet with leaders, employers, and experts in their field. This committee is responsible for providing advice to purchase equipment, and reviewing curriculum/instructional delivery, and makes recommendations for entry-level salary benchmarks. Additionally, much of their work also provides and supports directives that fund the Carl Perkins Act of 1984, which provides grant allocations of tools, machinery, and large ticket supplies for each program of study. The CTE Advisory Boards are part of the requirements for accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) that supports the Adult & Continuing Education Full-Time Day Program.

Highlights from recent committee meetings:

Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician — The committee proposed job shadowing opportunities on weekends on a volunteer basis to students near program completion.

Plumbing Technology/Plumber — Recommended for OSHA 10 training to assist program completers entering the workforce.

Electrician — A comprehensive inventory control system is to be purchased through the Perkins Grant portal.

Management Information Systems, General (Business Professional/Administrative Assistant) — The new Instructor Mr. Cohen will meet with his first committee this month, focusing on innovative industry certifications.