



Christopher Keyes was always mechanically inclined.

The Massachusetts native originally moved to Arizona to go to school to be a motorcycle mechanic, but was drawn to the Arizona Pipe Trades Apprenticeship program by his soon-to-be father-in-law.

“You can’t beat the training along with the pay and benefits,” Keyes said.

Keyes, 32, works for EMCOR Services as a refrigeration tech and lives in the Valley with his fiancé and their 1-year-old son.

After winning the state apprentice competition, Keyes, represented UA Local 469 in the regional apprenticeship competition. It was a chance to see how other locals train and to better his skills, he said.

As he looks back on his apprenticeship, the thing he admires the most about the union is the feeling of comradery he feels toward his union brothers and sisters.

“We fight for each other and that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

His advice for members starting their apprenticeship is to get as many certifications as possible. Keyes recently turned out as a journeyman.

“If there is a class and you have the time, take it,” he said. “If you want to get a job and stay working, get certifications.”

The Arizona Pipe Fitting Trades Apprenticeship Training Center is recognized throughout the United States for its innovative, one-on-one training program — a program designed to produce the best-trained and most professional tradespeople in the industry.