

IBEW 570 electrician apprentice competition helps apprentices polish skills

For the first time in the history of the Tucson-based IBEW 570 test/competition, every single apprentice passed all facets of the competition.

The goal of the apprenticeship program is prepare students for a life-long safe career in the electrical field while arming them with a means to support their family.

The annual IBEW 570 apprentice competition challenges fifth-year apprentices to complete tasks and assignments they've been practicing.

“The competition is a great way for apprentices to show off the new skills they've learned. We look for opportunities to help them grow and become an asset to contractors as skilled journeymen,” says IBEW 570 Business Manager Mike Verbout.

The eight-hour competition consists of an electrical theory written test and a practical portion including conduit bending and a three-phase transformer installation.

The examining board members use scores from 0 to 100 to judge the competition.

The top participants and their scores:

- First place - Carlos Garcia, 85
- Second place - Christopher Parisot, 82
- Third place - Ted Bolding, 79

The Tucson Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee is a five year training program that combines IBEW 570 and the Arizona Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) resources. The program requires each apprentice to complete 900 classroom hours and 8,000 on-the-job training hours including installation of electrical wiring, alarm/communications systems and conduit fabrication and installation.

The job outlook for electricians is 20 percent through 2022, faster than the average growth rate for all occupations. The median pay is \$49,840 per year, which is 30 percent higher than the median annual wage for all workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 570 has been providing quality service for more than 100 years. IBEW Local 570 supplies highly trained personnel to install electric equipment – always with a focus on safety. More information www.ibew570.org.



Apprentice David Wallis working on the motor control installation part of the competition.