

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Megan Kilkenny | 925.960.8515 | megan@abcnorcal.org

Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California holds Apprenticeship Graduation ceremony

February 25, 2015 (Livermore, CA) – On Friday, February 20, 2015, Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California Chapter (ABC NorCal) celebrated its 17th annual Apprenticeship Program Graduation and the incredible achievements of thirty-three skilled craft professionals.

Certificates were awarded to individuals completing apprenticeship programs in construction craft laborer, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and painting. Depending on the trade, the programs consist of two to five years of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. They are also state and federally approved and adhere to the highest of standards.

Presiding over the conferral of certificates was Diane Ravnik, Chief of Division of Apprenticeship Standards, Department of Industrial Relations (DIR); Shelia Lawrence, Assistant Director of Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (ROP), San Leandro; and California Assemblywoman, Catharine Baker (AD 16).

Assemblywoman Baker congratulated the graduates on behalf of the State Assembly: "Two, three, four years ago, you decided to embark on this path when the economy wasn't what it is today. And now, you graduate with a skilled career. It wasn't easy – it took hard work, dedication and grit. Be very proud of your accomplishment and soak in this moment."

In addition to the graduation certificates, several Apprentice of the Year awards were presented. Candidates for these awards were nominated by their employer in recognition of their stellar performance throughout the year. The Apprentice of the Year awards went to carpentry apprentice Tommy Chow, Sausal Corporation; construction craft laborer apprentice David Park, Western Water Constructors, Inc.; electrical apprentice Josh Kraut, Helix Electric; plumbing apprentice Eric Celaya, Alpha Mechanical, Inc.

Michael Grist, Bergelectric, Corp. also received the Outstanding Performance award for his exemplary commitment to the program and his craft.

New this year was the presentation of three plumbing scholarships sponsored by BrassCraft Manufacturing to help plumbing apprentices enrolled in accredited training programs complete their schooling to become journeyman plumbers. The scholarship recipients were Michael Mongiello, Santa Cruz Plumbing, Inc. who received \$250; Marcos Ramirez, T.P. Thomas Plumbing, Inc. who received \$500; and Eric Celaya, Alpha Mechanical, Inc. who received \$750.

Also new this year was the presentation of several Mentor of the Year awards. Candidates for these awards were nominated by both their employer and an apprentice. The finalists were:
Nathan Taylor, Unity Electric – Nominated by Jeremy Roberts
Justin Borges, Helix Electric, Inc. – Nominated by Sean Ziegler
Mark McGee, Western Pacific Technologies – Nominated by Seth Lewis
Justin Gutfeld, Circle "C" Electrical Services – Nominated by Trent Williamson
Jeff Johnson, Portola Construction - Nominated by Rachel Pariseau
And the awards went to Justin Gutfeld of Circle "C" Electrical Services, Inc. and Jeff Johnson of Portola Construction.

Photos from the event can be found on [Flickr](#). To learn more about the ABC NorCal Apprenticeship Programs, visit www.abcnorcal.org/apprenticeship.

####

About ABC NorCal

ABC Northern California Chapter (ABC NorCal) is a trade association founded on the merit shop philosophy and dedicated to serving construction professionals from Fresno to the Oregon border. Our mission: To promote free enterprise by advancing the merit shop philosophy in the construction industry through education, advocacy and business services. To learn more visit www.abcnorcal.org.

ABC NorCal | 4577 Las Positas Road, Unit C, Livermore, CA 94551 | abcnorcal.org