

...Veterans can use GI Bill benefits while training

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Institute in Portland, said that not only do apprentices in the Sheet Metal

Workers program qualify for GI Bill benefits, they can also earn a two-year associate of applied science degree in

the sheet metal technology program at Mt. Hood Community College.
“That makes them eligible for fi-

ancial aid through the college. Those are huge benefits,” said Olander, who is president of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16.

To a person, all of the apprenticeship staffers attending the career fair said that soldiers have what their training programs and contractors are looking for — someone who shows up on time, works hard, wants to learn, is drug-free and is a team player.

“Veterans make great candidates for our apprenticeship program,” Luna said.

“It certainly gives them a leg up in getting accepted into our program,” Olander said.

The Veterans Career & Benefits Fair was sponsored by the Oregon National Guard in conjunction with Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, the City of Portland and Clackamas Community College.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS/ RECRUITERS WITH A BOOTH AT THE VETERANS CAREER FAIR:
HVAC & Metals Institute (Sheet Metal Workers 16); Greater Portland Roofers and Waterproofers; Helmets to Hardhats; Oregon & SW Washington Mason Trades; Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council; IBEW Local 48; Painters and Drywall Finishers; Labor’s Community Service Agency; Northwest Line JATC; Operating Engineers Training Center; Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.; OSI Laborers Training Center; Willamette Carpenters Training Center.

CAREER VS. JOB

Are you looking for a job, or are you looking for a career? Acceptance into the building and construction trades is your first step to a great future. Careers in these trades enable you to earn while you learn and get rewarded for hard work. Being a member in the building and construction trades entitles you to competitive salaries with consistent raises, pension plans and excellent medical benefits.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Most candidates will enter an apprenticeship program where they learn a trade through on-the-job training supplemented by classroom instruction at state-of-the-art training facilities. Typically, there is no charge for the training, and you will be paid for the time you are working. The pay you receive from an employer can be supplemented by education benefits under the GI Bill, adding hundreds more dollars each month to your take home pay. An apprentice’s pay increases periodically over the course of the job, and as the apprentice becomes more skilled. Many apprenticeship programs have arrangements allowing individuals to obtain college credit for classroom work. Upon graduation, you will reach journey-level — a craftsman recognized for your knowledge and ability in the selected trade. In some cases your military experience can give you credit towards journey-level status and allow you to enter an apprenticeship program at an advanced level or be classified as a journeyman immediately.



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