



Plumbers & Fitters Local 290 apprentices test their skills at annual contest



The United Association of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 College of Mechanical Systems and Technology held an apprenticeship contest April 6-7 at the Matt Walters Training Center in Tualatin. About 100 apprentices — ranging from first to 10th term — used their learned skills to complete projects from blueprints. Competition was timed and judged for quality.

Apprenticeship Coordinator Bob DeGraw said competition was held in four disciplines — plumbing, steamfitting/pipefitting/sprinkler fitting, welding, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC/R).

The top finisher in each discipline advances to the Western Regional Apprentice Contest this

June in Idaho. There, they will go up against top apprentices from locals in 10 western states. Top placers in Idaho will then qualify for the national contest held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in August.

Top finishers at UA Local 290 were:

- WELDER: *Cody Halme*
- HVAC/R: *Kurt Beagley*
- PLUMBER: *Chaz Ehlers*
- STEAMFITTER: *Richard Eisenbeisz*

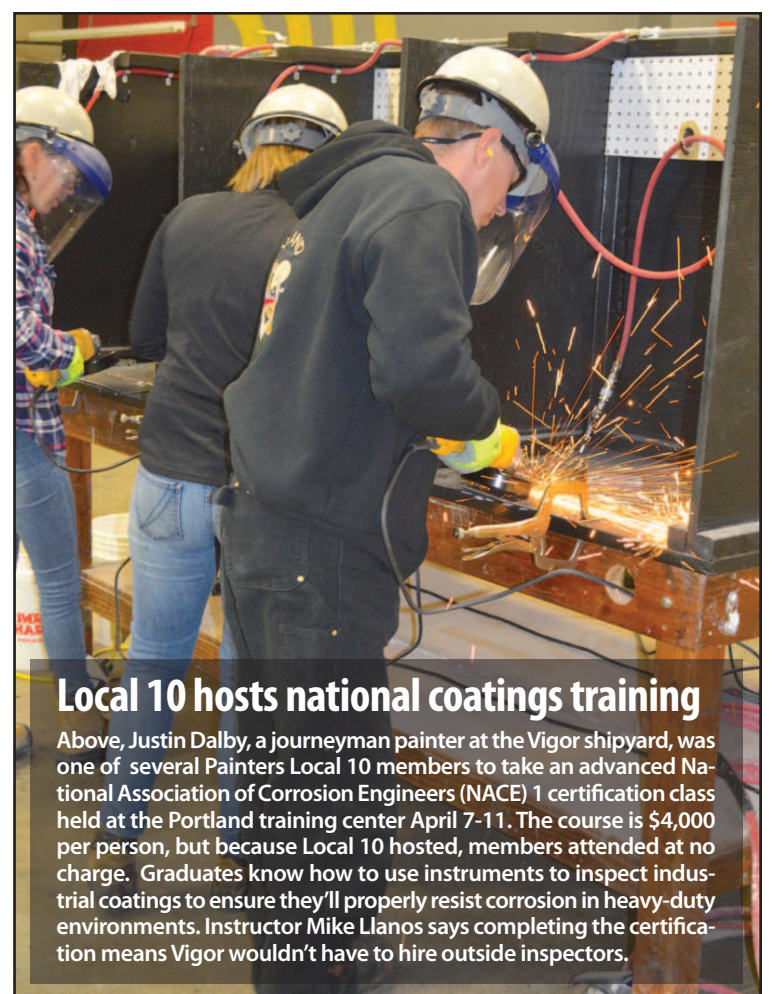
Approximately 600 apprentice plumbers and fitters are in training at seven UA Local 290 training centers in Oregon and Eureka, Calif.

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Local 10 hosts national coatings training

Above, Justin Dalby, a journeyman painter at the Vigor shipyard, was one of several Painters Local 10 members to take an advanced National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) 1 certification class held at the Portland training center April 7-11. The course is \$4,000 per person, but because Local 10 hosted, members attended at no charge. Graduates know how to use instruments to inspect industrial coatings to ensure they'll properly resist corrosion in heavy-duty environments. Instructor Mike Llanos says completing the certification means Vigor wouldn't have to hire outside inspectors.