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WOMEN IN TRADES CAREER FAIR

Many of the union-sponsored apprenticeship training programs hosted exhibits at the Oregon Tradeswomen's Career Fair held May 18 at the IBEW Local 48 hall in Northeast Portland. The fair, in its 27th year, offers women and students an introduction to the jobs, skills, and benefits of a career in the building, mechanical, electrical, and utility trade, all while helping the industry build a diverse workforce. Participants got the opportunity to try out tools, make things to take home, find out about training opportunities, and meet successful tradeswomen, including Stephanie Vasquez (left), a new journeyman drywall finisher and member of Painters and Drywall Finishers Local 10, and Carly Rush (above center), a 5th-term apprentice and member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16. With Vasquez is apprenticeship instructor Skip Doty. More than 40 interactive workshops and hands-on activities were offered. On May 17, the fair was open to middle school and high school students from throughout the state.

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