

The Portland Observer 1995

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Careers



Graduates of Portland's Metro Electrical Training Center gather after receiving certificates during ceremonies held May 20. The 1995 class was the largest group of electrical training apprentices in the nation.

Metro Electricians Graduate Largest Class

A gala graduation ceremony and banquet marked the graduation of 119 apprentices from the Metro Electrical Training Center in northeast Portland.

The class was the largest group of electrical training apprentices in the nation.

The ceremonies were attended by guests from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Electrical Contractors Association, the Oregon Bureau of

Labor Industries and Washington Department of Labor and Industries.

The Metro apprenticeship program is one of the toughest and most well-respected educational programs in the nation. A financial trust was started in 1963 by NECA's Oregon Columbia Chapter and IBEW Local 48 as a cooperative labor/management effort to provide training and skills for union electrical apprentices and journeymen.

With its own 25,000 square foot training

facility at northeast 42nd and Killingsworth, the center provides some of the most modern, hands-on training equipment available to apprentices and to journeymen workers continuing their education.

The state-of-the-art facilities, combined with the excellence of the instructors and the dedication of apprentices guarantee that the electricians and technicians who graduate from the center are some of the most skilled and technologically

up-to-date as any in the nation, Metro officials said.

Ken Fry, director of the center, noted that the graduates had spent years in preparation.

"These men and women have participated in hundreds of hours of classroom instruction, thousands of hours of on-the-job training, as well as many, many hours of hands-on work, both in the field and in the classroom," said Fry.

"Congratulations to all the men and women who join us today as brothers and sisters," said Edward L. Barnes, IBEW Local 48 Business Manager. "We appreciate how hard they've worked for this."

"These are the future leaders who will be providing the vision for our industry," said Timothy Gauthier, NECA Executive Manager and Secretary of the Metro Training Trust. "We salute them on this important day."



Dennis McClay is promoted To Vice President of Product Support for the Hessel Tractor & Equipment Co., 1425 N.E. Columbia Blvd. McClay has been with the Oregon company for 20 years, most recently as assistant vice president and manager of Hessel's Bend store.

Students Chase Math, Science Careers

Summer school for area middle and high students pursuing careers in engineering, math and science will be offered at Portland State University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

The Portland Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Summer Enrichment Program offers a series of science and math-related field trips and workshops for youngsters presently in grades 6 through 11.

The program runs July 10 through Aug. 11. Students of all ethnic backgrounds are

encouraged to apply.

Instruction includes outdoor games and contests to sharpen math skills and science teacher-led visits to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Washington Park Zoo. Other features involve novel ways of learning concepts such as navigation, measurement, scientific inquiry and engineering systems.

The registration fee is \$10 per student. Application forms are available from the Portland-MESA office in Room 238C, Science Building II, 1719 S.W. 10th Ave. on the

PSU campus or call MESA director Joan Kurowski at 725-4665.

Enrollment is offered on a first-come, first-served basis, but students already participating in MESA will have first priority for sign-up. Other students will be registered as space is available.

Students can sign up for as many workshops as their personal schedules can accommodate, but should make sure the workshops they sign up for do not overlap.

For specific classes and schedules, call the MESA office at 725-4665.

Prevailing Wage Rate Law Heads For Governor's Desk

The Oregon House concurred with the Senate and passed a new prevailing wage law that simplifies employers' responsibilities, provides for wage surveys, and allows the labor commissioner to impose civil penalties for violations.

The bill also raises the threshold for eligible projects from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

"Voters told us they wanted to retain the prevailing wage when they rejected Measure 12 last fall," said Roberts. "But there were enough problems with the law to signal re-

form. Therefore it was our goal this session to make the law work right. The three aspects of this law--wage determination, employer education and enforcement--will serve to clarify the law, ease restrictions on employers, provide them with more information and education, ensure fair and accurate wage survey and put teeth into the law by allowing the bureau to impose civil penalties."

The prevailing wage law is also referred to as the Little Davis Bacon Act. The Act requires contractors of public works projects to pay the prevailing wage to their employees

on all public projects. In the past, the bureau has depended on wage survey conducted by the federal government to determine the prevailing wage.

The measure passed today provides the bureau with funding to conduct its own surveys, and to provide employer and contracting agency education and enhanced enforcement. Funding comes from a fee that the new law allows the bureau to charge. The fee equals 1 percent of a prevailing wage project contract price, but not more than \$5,000 or less than \$100.

Family Leave Bill Passes House

The Oregon Family Leave Act passed the House and is headed for the Governor's desk for signature.

The measure broadens leave benefits for over 100,000 Oregonians, clarifies requirements and ends the administrative nightmare employers faced when they tried to sort out the scores of conflicting state and federal leave provisions. The new law replaces the state's parental, pregnancy and family medical leave statutes with a single standard that is either more generous than, or aligned with, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, ending the confusion about leave administration.

One of newly elected Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts' campaign promises was to simplify and clarify laws enforced by the bureau--he used the 2" by 3" chart of the state's leave laws to illustrate his point. He sees the new Oregon Family Leave Act as a win for both business and labor. Roberts proposed the bill and brought together Associated Oregon Industries, the Women's Com-

mission and labor groups to work out compromises on disputed amendments. He says that working with them was the key to the success of the bill. "This bill is a considerable gain for Oregon families, and reflects the commitment of business and labor alike to reduce work and family conflicts. What is significant about this measure is that it simplifies and clarifies the law, providing a net benefit for everyone--business, labor, and families.

Under the new law, workers of companies with 25 or more employees can take family leave if they've been on the job at least six months and work at least 25 hours a week. Benefits include 12 weeks a year unpaid leave to care for a critically ill parent, parent-in-law, child or spouse; to stay at home with a sick child; or to take time off because of a personal illness. Additionally, any worker with at least six months on the job (no 25-hour threshold) is entitled to take time off to care for a newborn or newly adopted child. Employees taking such leave may also use accrued sick time.

Graduates Can Catch The Wave In Music

There's a new small music system on the market that's perfect for both high school and college graduates. It features AM and FM stereo, a dual alarm, 12 presets, scan and automatic sleep features, and spectacular sound that rivals or surpasses larger stereo systems. It's compact and transportable, and can be regulated by a credit card-sized remote control. For more information about the Wave radio, call Bose Corporation at 1-800-919-BOSE (2673). (News USA)

Portland Students Earn Legacy Emanuel Scholarships

Six Portland high school students will receive \$1,000 grants for college in the sixth year of the Legacy Emanuel Scholarship Program.

The awards were recently made to DeMetrea Gill, Tova Johnson, Whitney Lindahl, Christina McComb, Joy Preciso and Amirah Moore.

Gill of Benson High School plans to study dentistry at the University of Oregon. Johnson of Grant High School plans to study genetics at Oregon State University. Lindahl will enter pre-medicine at Stanford University. She also attended Grant.

McComb of Central Catholic High School will study physical therapy at Oregon State University.

Preciso of Roosevelt High School plans to study nursing at Portland Community College.

And Moore, a Grant High School Vocational Mentoring student, will attend

Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Ga.

The scholarship is renewable for up to four years and can be used for tuition, books and other college costs.

Four of the scholarships are funded by a matching grant from Legacy Portland Hospitals Community Relations and the Emanuel Medical Foundation. One scholarship is funded by an endowment created by the Emanuel Medical Staff. And the final scholarship, designed for a Grant High School Vocational Mentoring student, was created by Legacy Portland Hospitals President and Chief Executive Officer James E. May.

The scholarship application process will begin again in February. Students must reside in north and northeast Portland. They must have a high school grade point average of 2.75 and intend to study a health care career.

For more information, call Jan Shea, Legacy Portland Hospitals Community Relations at 413-4630.

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