

Profile of an Electrical Foreman

By JOY RAMOS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hilary Colbert

33 years old.
Business: Electrician for 5 years.

Working hours: 40/per week. Occasional, varied amount of overtime.

Potential earnings: \$26 per hour, but negotiable per contract. As a Journeyman, the salary range for an Inside Electrician is between \$10.92 - \$27.95.

Typical Day:

6 a.m. - I get my tools as well as my supplies ready to take care of the project that I'm working on. I then load up my cart and go to a particular location. I would go to the project area, whether on site or go to another site and lay out the

scope for the work.

7 a.m. - Once I get my ladders out, I find out where my starting point is. I then determine how many locations and start pulling wire, handle trouble calls, new locations/new drops.

8 a.m. - Make customer contacts.

9:30 a.m. - Take a break.

9:45 a.m. - Start on the project.

11 a.m. - Pulling wire, shooting ceiling hangars, install conduit.

Noon to 12:30 p.m. - Go to lunch.

12:30 - 2 p.m. - Pull cable, terminate the closet ends and then

terminate each location.

1:45 p.m. - Test and label the location. Do some paperwork involving job costs, materials and hours related to the job. Make customer contact.

2:30 p.m. - End of the day.

What do you like most about your work?

The customer contact. The physical-ness of my job and the rewards of seeing something that I've finished or fixed.

What do you least like about your work?

Working in an occupied space where you are not able to move freely. And, working in high sensitive areas at hospitals with very high traffic: ICU's, surgeries, emergency rooms. At those places,

it's very busy, very dangerous. The danger is when someone is not paying attention to what I'm doing and getting in the way, resulting in something shorting out.

What advice can you give for someone interested in getting into this profession?

Go to the NECA-IBEW Electrical center, located at 158 and Airport Way in Portland. They have informational orientation from 4-5 p.m. with an open application process that's available twice a year in January and July. They can call 503/262-9991.

As for the minimum qualifications, they must be 18 years or older with a high school diploma or GED, taken Algebra I, II with a C-grade or better, have a valid driver's license and demonstrate good mechanical skills. Those are the bare minimum requirements.

Careers from A to Z, CONTINUED

emergency and non-emergency telephone calls, dispatching police, fire and medical personnel and equipment, monitoring and controlling radio and computer-based communications, helping people in crisis situations, responding to requests for emergency help, and providing information and referrals to the public.

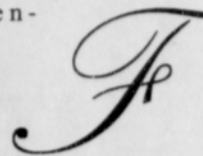
* To earn an Emergency Dispatch Operator, One-year Certificate, call PCC's Cascade Campus at 503/978-5424.

EMERGENCYMEDICALTECHNICIAN

As a member of the emergency medical services system, EMTs respond to emergency calls to provide efficient and immediate care to the critically ill and injured, and transport patients to appropriate medical facilities. Duties include patient assessment, airway and ventilation management, CPR, bleeding control, bandaging and splinting, administration of certain medications and even the use of automated external defibrillators. EMTs are employed by many organizations, both public and private, emergency and non-emergency.

* To learn about PCC's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program at Southeast Center, call 503/788-6205.

ENVIRONMENTENGINEER - This has become a hot field in the industry in recent years. People in these positions have a degree in environmental engineering and design everything from noise-abatement systems (like those walls around the local airport) to systems to dispose of the waste resulting from manufacturing processes. Salary range: \$40,000 to \$75,000.



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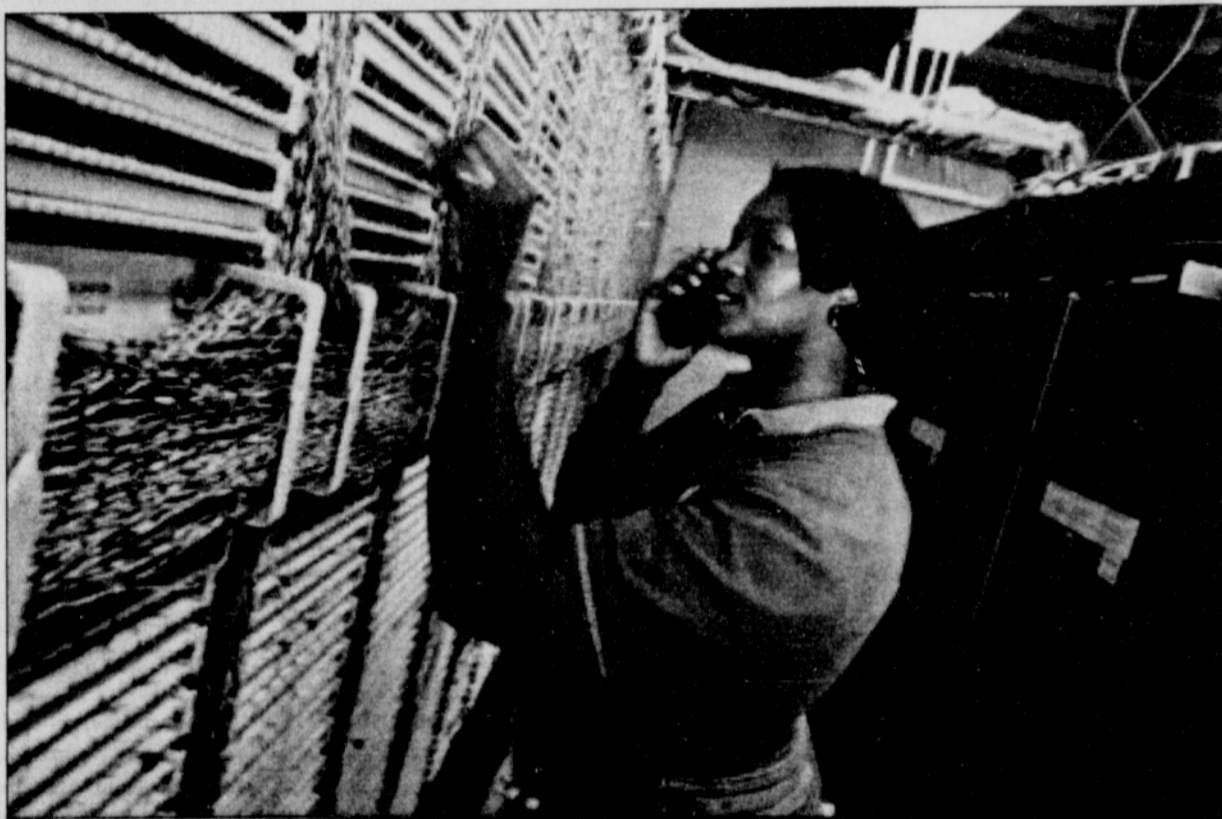


PHOTO BY MARTIN THIEL

Hilary Colbert got her career start through Oregon Tradeswomen's program called Pathways to Success. Through the program, women can get started on the road to a high-paying, high-skilled career in construction, mechanical or technical sales.



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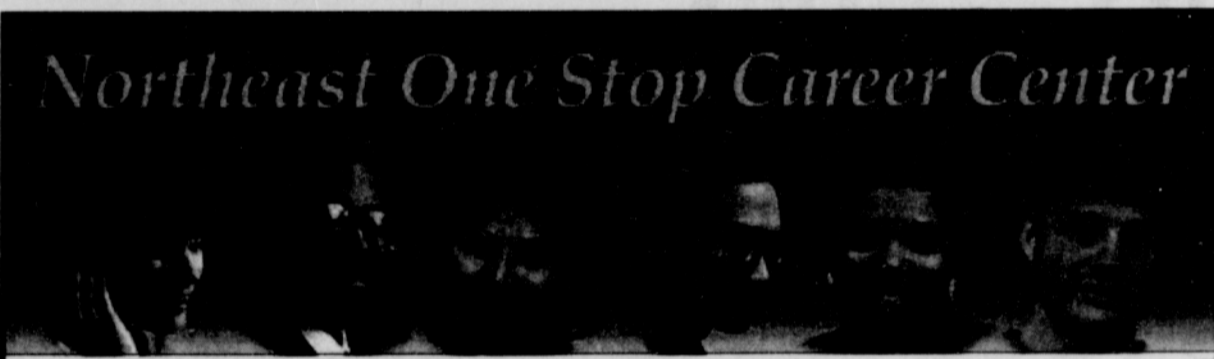
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ROADS MEET AT HISTORIC COLLINS CENTER



The Northside YMCA located at the Grace & Evelyn Collins Memorial Community Center is at the center of some great opportunities for community youth.

On April 26th, 34 students participating in the Y-We Care after-school and teen program were the guests of PGE for "Take a Student to Work" day. The students represented the following schools: Jefferson, Tubman, Applegate, Boise-Eliot, Clarendon, Holy Redeemer, Irvington, Sabin and Whitaker.

Members of senior management team spoke with students, challenging them to stay in school, take math and science and to consider a company like PGE for a career choice.

Clackamas Community College and the Grace & Evelyn Collins Center Board of Directors have also introduced a college internship and scholarship opportunity that's available now!

Students who are high school seniors and will be freshman in the fall of 2001 are encouraged to contact the Northside YMCA located at the Grace & Evelyn Collins Memorial Community Center for applications and more information.

Call 503-288-3355. The deadline for submission of applications is June 15.