



UA 400 Pipe Trades Receives 2019 Business Partner in Education Award

Kaukauna, WI (March 4, 2019) — UA 400 Pipe Trades announces that it has been awarded the 2019 Business Partner in Education by the Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes a business that demonstrates a commitment to local school districts through classroom presentations, job shadow opportunities or youth apprenticeship programs. The award was presented at the chamber's annual event held at Liberty Hall in Kimberly on February 28, 2019.

The UA 400 Youth Apprenticeship is a program designed for students entering or currently in their senior year of high school to get an early start on a career in the pipe trades. The program provides classroom instruction at the UA 400 training facility as well as jobsite training.

UA 400 was nominated for the award by Nels Lawrence, youth apprenticeship/co-op coordinator at Kaukauna High School. UA 400 has collaborated with Kaukauna High School encouraging students to participate in their Youth Apprentice Program as a way to gain exposure to careers in pipefitting, fabrication, plumbing and HVAC/R service.

“UA 400 Pipe Trades has become a true partner in education,” said Lawrence. “Our students are working in the major companies served by the union and the students now can access union training while still in the high school youth apprenticeship.”

This level of hands-on learning and support early on increases a student's chance at receiving high pay and high-skill careers once they graduate from high school.

“We currently have 25 schools participating in our Youth Apprenticeship program with 10 contractors providing job opportunities for these students to explore a career in the pipe trades industry,” said Jeff Knaus, business manager/financial secretary-treasurer for UA 400. “On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association and UA 400 Pipe Trades, we are very proud of our partnership with the local schools and businesses! We appreciate the recognition.”

In a continued effort to connect local schools and businesses, the Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce created the Business Partner in Education Award in 2018. One of the historic challenges



students have faced when focusing on career options is that the process didn't begin until after graduation. The local K-12 schools are working to change that.

"Schools are focusing much earlier on how we can help students to think differently about their learning," said Kelli Clussman, executive director for the Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce. "We are working to connect our school districts with our business community and help students with targeting more on where their skills are. The UA 400 Pipe Trades is a great example of how our businesses are working with our local school districts to give our students 'hands-on' experiences. We are so honored to present them with this award."

UA 400 Pipe Trades is comprised of approximately 2,300 members serving 18 counties in northeast Wisconsin. The group invests in education and job training for its members and qualified manpower supplying a skilled workforce to their 90 signatory contractors who provide plumbing, pipefitting, HVAC/R service and pipe fabrication.

To learn more about the UA 400 Youth Apprenticeship program, please visit: <https://ua400.org/youth-apprenticeships/> or contact DJ Kloida, youth apprenticeship coordinator at 920.462.0412 or djkloida@ua400.org.

About UA 400 Pipe Trades

The UA 400 Pipe Trades, headquartered in Kaukauna, Wisconsin with an office in Fond du Lac, is comprised of approximately 2300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. The organization is affiliated with the United Association of Plumber and Pipefitters with an estimated 345,000 membership throughout the United States and Canada. The group's mission is to be the preferred choice for industries, employers and workers specializing in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR service and pipe fabrication as well as training for its members and qualified manpower to their 105 signatory contractors. The group's membership serves eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin including Adams, Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menomonee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. The UA 400 takes pride in their partnerships and contributions to serve local communities with organizations such as Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Special Olympics, Rebuilding Together, Heat's On Program, Harbor House and Salvation Army. To keep up with the latest news and to learn more about UA 400, visit <http://www.ua400.org> follow us on Facebook and YouTube.

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