

# **Independent Electrical Contractors of Southern Arizona**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Friday, June 12, 2009**

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### **Independent Electrical Contractors of Southern Arizona Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Program**

#### **Third Annual Apprentice Wire-Off Competition**

**Friday, April 24, 2009**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of Southern Arizona (IEC of Southern Arizona) hosted its Third Annual Apprentice Wire-Off Competition today, Friday, April 24, 2009. The event is designed to provide graduating students an opportunity to show the skills they have acquired through the IEC of Southern Arizona Apprenticeship and Training Program. Participating apprentices included Alex Bachelier (Mountain Power Electric), Glenn Coon (Palo Verde Electric), Patrick Jackman (Flynn Electric), Lynette Johnson (Mountain Power Electric), and Ryan Pettinato (Mountain Power Electric). Each apprentice competes individually at their own workstation which is equipped with identical descriptive instructions, schematic drawing and materials to complete the wiring of an undisclosed project. This year's competition project was to wire an elevator according to the instructions and plans provided. Their efforts were observed and reviewed by local judges with many years of experience in the electrical field. The judges for the 2009 competition included Todd Becker of Faulk Electric and Jerry Duffy, Jr. of Duffy Electric. Alex Bachelier is the winner of the Wire-Off Competition which was announced at the Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony on May 29, 2009.

The Wire-Off event was held at HD Electrical supply, an associate member of IEC Southern Arizona, located at 2125 E. Beverly Drive in Tucson. HD Supply hosted an onsite trade show and lunch during the competition. Participating vendors included Appleton Expl. Proof Fittings, Caddy Fasteners, Cooper Lighting, Crouse Hinds, Cutler Hammer, Greenlee Tools, Hammond Transformers, Intermatic Timers, Lithonia LED lighting, Lutron, Milbank, On Q Data and Phone, S & C Switches, T.J. Cope Cable Tray, Wiremold, Wire & Cable Vendors, and Allied Conduit.

#### **Apprenticeship and Training Graduation**

**Friday, May 29, 2009**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of Southern Arizona (IEC of Southern Arizona) hosted its annual Apprenticeship and Training Program Graduation and dinner on Friday, May 29, 2009 with more than forty members, apprentices, family, friends and guests in attendance. Council Member (Ward III) Karin Uhlich congratulated the 2008-2009 graduates and applauded them on their determination to complete the four year program. Ms. Uhlich emphasized the importance of skilled electrical professionals keep pace with continuous industry-wide growth and changes. The graduates were also addressed by James Kuliesh, Executive Director of the Alliance for Construction Trades (ACT) who congratulated them for choosing a rewarding career and encouraged them to set high standards and goals and work hard to achieve them.

The IEC of Southern Arizona Apprenticeship and Training Program is recognized by the Arizona Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Labor. Apprentices also earn credits at Pima Community College through the program. The graduates of the 2008-2009 IEC of Southern Arizona Apprenticeship and Training program are: Alexander Bachelier, Glenn Coon, Patrick Jackman, Lynette Johnson, and Kristopher Pettinato. Alexander Bachelier, who also won the Wire Off Competition, was named the Apprentice of the Year. For more information about this four year electrical training program please contact Apprenticeship Director Brenda Olsson at (520) 820-5506 or visit the IEC Southern Arizona website at [www.iecsaz.org](http://www.iecsaz.org).

## **IEC of Southern Arizona**

IEC of Southern Arizona is a diverse organization of electrical professionals whose mission is to promote the success of all electrical contractors serving Tucson and Southern Arizona. Its leadership is dedicated to keep its membership current about the ever-changing electrical industry and to provide quality educational programs, information and services to help electrical contractors excel in today's market.

The electrical industry is the most technical of all business trades. It requires a professional to manage and a professional to construct electrical projects. The only way to become a professional is through quality training, education, and experience. Members of IEC of Southern Arizona actively support the improvement of a qualified electrical workforce.

IEC of Southern Arizona is committed to providing a means to a quality work force which is reflected in its four year apprenticeship program. In the future, IEC of Southern Arizona plans to expand its training program to include continuing education opportunities as well as business and management training opportunities for the contractor and other business professionals.

IEC of Southern Arizona has doubled its membership within the last two years and continues to grow! Visit the IEC Southern Arizona website at [www.iecsaz.org](http://www.iecsaz.org) for more information about the association and its members, programs, and events.