

Training Your Employees

Apprenticeship and Craft Training

ABC is a leader in apprenticeship and craft training for merit shop contractors. Through its chapters, ABC delivers programs that equip craft professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to improve their productivity and safety, and advance in their careers.

Apprenticeship Programs

ABC provides formal apprenticeship training programs that are registered with the Office of Apprenticeship, Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS), a division of the U.S. Department of Labor. Thousands of construction apprentices train annually through ABC-registered apprenticeship programs. These programs meet federal and state requirements for registered apprenticeship and prevailing wage work, including employer-sponsored classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Craft persons who successfully complete a program are recognized at the journeyman level and awarded a certificate.

Craft Training

ABC chapters deliver nationally recognized skills training through the *Contren* modular craft training curriculum. While less formal than registered apprenticeship programs, craft training is no less rigorous or demanding in terms of high standards and performance. The extensive curricula of *Contren* training modules are based on modern construction industry practices and cover 27 different trades including plumbing, electrical, sheet metal, carpentry and sprinklerfitter. ABC works closely with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) to develop and update the curricula. The majority of ABC's chapters have earned NCCER accreditation, assuring members of world-class training for their craft professionals.

National Craft Championships

ABC hosts its technical skills competition, the National Craft Championships, in conjunction with its annual national convention. The top merit shop apprentices from across the country first compete in regional events, with the winners advancing to the national competition. The 11 competition categories are carpentry, electrical, fire sprinkler, HVAC, masonry, metal building, millwright, pipefitting, plumbing, sheet metal and welding.

Trimmer Education Foundation

The Trimmer Education Foundation works with ABC's chapters to deliver education and safety training to ABC member companies. The foundation's funding comes from private donations of ABC members, as well as through grants from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that have totaled more than \$1.4 million since 1999. These funds help ABC and its chapters implement workforce development training initiatives for contractors at the local level. In addition, the foundation awards college scholarships to more than 40 students each year.

