



## Amp Up Your Career – Become An Electrician

If you want job security, the trades offer many options for essential careers. If you are considering a career that can offer an opportunity for specialization in one of a number of areas, the electrical trade may be right for you.

The three primary areas of employment for electricians are residential, commercial, and industrial. Each offers pathways for job growth and according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, outlook for employment in this industry is growing at a rate of ten percent projected to 2028. While demand is excellent for electricians, so are apprenticeship, employment and salary prospects!

North Montco Technical Career Center's electrical trade program collaborates with local businesses for curriculum advisement and employment opportunities for students. Gillespie Electric and Universal Electrical are just two of the partners that serve on the program's Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC). These industry partners want to make sure Montgomery County has enough qualified electricians to fill the job gap. Both Gillespie and Universal Electric elaborated on the electrical trade and the benefit of students continuing with an employer funded apprenticeship program once they found employment.

Matt Sauers, Chief Estimator of Gillespie Electric, is a former graduate and Pennsylvania Youth Apprenticeship Program (PYAP) student of North Montco. "Electricians can make a very, very good living, and right now, our demand for qualified electricians has never been greater," says Sauers. "Many of those trained in the electrical field are retiring, but replacing those individuals isn't enough, the industry needs more people with these skills." Most employers



recommend electricians continue learning as apprentices after they are hired. Sauers explains, "Apprenticeships are a great way to get paid and continuing learning after you are hired. In addition, most companies will pay for your apprenticeship training (four years), so at 22 you can become a journeyman making over \$40,000 per year. And that's just the beginning, as years go by, electricians can make between \$80,000 to over \$100,000 per year."

Rich Nyce, Director of Universal Electric's Apprenticeship Program sees the opportunity for apprenticeship and job growth much the same way as Sauers. "Many companies currently have to turn down work projects due to lack of employees. While people want to have good job prospects, they do need to learn skills that will give them the background they need." Nyce has high faith in North Montco's Co-op and technical programs and understands that these students have a great foundation for the next step. Nyce encourages all employees to complete an apprenticeship. The route to becoming a certified electrician is straightforward for the day or the evening continuing education program. The first step is attending a technical program where you can learn the basics.

The electrical trades program at North Montco covers all three areas of electrical work:

The residential component of the program provides students a basic un-

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derstanding and hands on experience with residential branch circuits, residential electrical services including 100 amp and 200 amps single-phase systems.

The commercial component of the program will provide the students the basic understanding and hands on experience with commercial wiring systems. The commercial electrical learning builds onto the electrical residential wiring the students learn first. The industrial component of the program is a (value added) learning (or additional course for the adult program). If a student is in the electrical trades program for three to four years, they typically will experience the industrial applications.

North Montco's instructors have years of industry experience to impart to their students. Robert Catanzaro, has been working in the electrical industry since 1980. Hw was first exposed to electrical work while in the Co-op program in high school working as a maintenance person at a Holiday Inn. He then enlisted into the Army Corps of Engineers as an electrician, before entering into an apprenticeship program through an electrical contractor. He then spent the next twenty years working for electrical contractors, working

on projects such as airports, hospitals, schools, emergency generators, and water treatment plants. In 2004 he started his own electrical contractor business bidding and working on projects that were familiar, mainly school renovations and emergency generators. In 2012 he was presented with the opportunity to teach the electrical trades at North Montco.

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Other continuing education courses are available at North Montco Technical Career Center. With multiple programs offered in six high-demand occupation sectors, you can increase workplace skills and earn the certifications employers want most: Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Manufacturing, Health Careers, Driver's Education and Commercial Driver License (CDL). Key components to training in all of the programs reflect current industry trends and advances in technology. Partnerships with business and industry, manufacturing and schools have kept NMTCC's programs state of the art to meet the demands of local employers.

Various apprenticeships are available. Call today for more information 215.855.3931.



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