

# APPRENTICESHIP



Veronica stands next to a finished project with rubber insulation.

## A Word From an Apprentice

*What does apprenticeship mean to you?*

### Veronica Vodenik

*Northern California Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers J.A.C.*

I initially heard about the apprenticeship program through an acquaintance when I was in a women's shelter. It sounded like a way for me to gain a job training in a field that would allow me to support my son and I. So I checked into the program.

The program gave me enough income to move out of the shelter and rent a room. For the first time ever, I was able to qualify to purchase a car. I have reliable transportation and am now able to rent a house. I have gained self-confidence and I know that I can take care of my son. I have been able to build good credit, because I am gainfully employed. I am currently saving for a down payment to purchase a home.

I have been able to see the apprenticeship program evolve and grow during my time in the program, while developing my skills. The instructors care about the trainees and go above and beyond what is required to assist them in succeeding.

Due to the demands of the job, I am in much better physical condition. The program has proven to me that I can succeed at the craft even though I have a smaller build. In some situations, such as tight areas, my smaller bone structure is an asset. I am proud to say that I am a part of this union and look forward to seeing more women join me in the trade.



Veronica measures a tank head before creating a metal layout.

Photos courtesy of IATSE local 16

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