

WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTNERS WITH WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL TO CREATE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



Looking ahead for additional opportunities

Worcester, MA, June 25, 2018 — Worcester Housing Authority (WHA) and Worcester Technical High School announced a partnership to create a new trades apprenticeship program. This program will provide graduating students the opportunity to learn through hands on experience as they work towards their journeyman license.

"We have a fantastic high school right in our backyard preparing students for trades work," said Alex Corrales, WHA Executive Director. "Our agency is a great fit to providing the experience they need and in return we get some talented folks."

The WHA approached Worcester Technical High School about creating an apprenticeship program, and the response was well received from the start.

"We were excited to find a local partner like the WHA, that was looking to invest in our students, and provide good stable long term employment beyond the apprenticeship,"

— Co-Op Coordinator at Worcester Technical High School, Mary Blute.

The trades apprenticeship program is designed to prepare the apprentice to be a successful plumber, electrician or carpenter. "Ideally we want to prepare them to grow with the WHA.

The apprentice will be familiar with our buildings, know our systems, and be prepared to be a successful part of the WHA trades team in the long term", said Corrales.

The first apprentice selected is Anthony Ferraro, a 2018 graduate of Worcester Technical High School and a lifelong Worcester resident. Ferraro is an experienced apprentice, and has worked for a local plumbing and heating contractor for the last three years.

"I am thrilled to be the first apprentice for this new program", said Ferraro. "I feel that Worcester Tech has really prepared me for this new chapter in my life."

Additionally, Ferraro volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, and recently won the PHCC All Star Award for most outstanding plumbing student at Worcester Technical High School.

"We're excited for our students to have an opportunity like this," said James Smith, Plumbing and Pipefitting Department Head at Worcester Technical High School, "It's rare to find a company with the goal of growing and retaining an apprentice into their journeyman license."

The WHA operates approximately 3000 apartments throughout the City of Worcester at 24 separate developments. It is the 2nd largest housing authority in New England.