



Jack Herrick Named Plumbing Instructor of the Year



Jack Herrick, named Plumbing Instructor of the Year at the recent 2008 HVACR & Plumbing Workshop, is a humble man committed to his students. An instructor at Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, Mass. for 14 years, Herrick has more than 40 years of experience in the plumbing industry. His favorite part about teaching at the high school level is to see students, especially those with learning disabilities, leave school with a purpose and become successful in their trade. Former students often return to tell Herrick of their current career successes.

"I am humbled by this award," said Herrick. "I never expected such an honor."

Using a hands on approach as much as possible to teach technical lessons, he also provides additional training in customer relations, finance, estimation preparation and sales. Herrick also organizes field trips to working job sites to demonstrate how the student's education will translate outside of the classroom. Graduates working as licensed technicians are invited back to speak to his classes, giving students advice and answering an array of questions.

"Since joining Minuteman in 1995, Jack has trained, mentored and engaged students in the love

of learning," said James Laverty, principal of Minuteman Regional Vocational High School. "His career expertise in the field of plumbing and his commitment to education and community service have enabled his students to go on to be outstanding tradesmen, successful business owners and good citizens. Jack reaches students in a way that is beyond the confines of a shop or classroom. He teaches the attainment of skills while grounding students in problem-solving and pride in one's craft. This honor is truly deserved."

Herrick's work as an instructor expands beyond the high school classroom. He also writes articles for local plumbing publications and teaches an exam preparation course to prepare adults for their journeyman and masters exams. Herrick also enjoys working directly with students families to improve the students' chances for success after high school.



This includes hosting a job fair and running a co-op program for seniors to gain experience in the working world before graduation.

The Plumbing Instructor of the Year was awarded to Jack Herrick at the instructor workshop by Brian Wasag, associate editor of CONTRACTOR Magazine. The award is sponsored by the PHCC Educational Foundation and CONTRACTOR.

Working Together to Serve HVACR & Plumbing Instructors

With more than 320 participants, the 2008 HVACR & Plumbing Instructor Workshop, March 5-7 in Lansdowne, Va., was another successful and dynamic program. A variety of learning opportunities were provided, including HVACR & plumbing-specific sessions, with topics such as technology updates, new training tools, "green" water heating, assessing student learning and connecting students with careers. The workshop also featured general sessions on career and technical education legislation and company exhibitors with tabletop displays. In addition, there were opportunities for networking and the fun "I've Got an Idea" session.

This annual workshop was sponsored by nine industry organizations: Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute, Council of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Educators, Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Distributors International, North American Technician Excellence, PHCC Educational Foundation, Refrigeration Service Engineers

Society, SkillsUSA, and the Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration NEWS. The workshop is also endorsed by five HVACR industry groups: Air Movement & Control Association International, Inc., Indoor Air Quality Association, National Air Duct Cleaners Association, National Air Filtration Association and Radiant Panel Association.

"This is probably the best event for instructors that I have ever attended," said Craig Wilber, HVAC/Industrial Systems Instructor at Craven Community



College in New Bern, N.C. "My problems are addressed and I get to network with fellow instructors and other industry groups that understand the issues I face on a daily basis."

The 2009 Instructor Workshop will take place March 11-13 at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Va. Visit www.instructorworkshop.org for updates.

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