



PHCC NEWS

An advertorial section sponsored by the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors - National Association (www.phccweb.org)

Richard Carrington named Plumbing Instructor of the Year



Richard Carrington, named Plumbing Instructor of the Year at the recent 2007 HVACR & Plumbing Instructor Workshop, is a self-made but self-effacing man. He is as committed to

his second career as an instructor and a force behind the successful PHCC-GSA Apprenticeship and Training program at McClellan, Calif., as he was to his first career as owner of Carrington Plumbing.

But talking about himself is another matter: He doesn't much. He quickly turns a question to his students.

"My greatest satisfaction is when I can teach a bright young person and they go back to their employer and are told, 'You're worth something,' and they get a raise, after just two weeks in our program! I get the satisfaction of knowing I made a difference, that I pointed that kid in

that direction."

One of the founding fathers of the PHCC of Greater Sacramento Area Plumbers Unilateral Apprenticeship Program (and also state president of the California PHCC), Carrington started teaching evenings while still running his business. When the PHCC-GSA program went to a full-time concentrated training format three years ago, he was instrumental in its success.

From converting the curriculum to a two-week semester format to establishing the largest hands-on training lab space the program has ever had, to teaching refresher classes for journeymen plumbers of local PHCC members, he is credited with always going above and beyond what's expected. He set up the training facility to accommodate the needs of all members, whether their work is residential, commercial, or service and repair-related.

With the help of the program's other full-time instructor, Butch Starr, he has established a lab that results in well-rounded journeymen plumbers who will help fill the need for trained plumbers in the industry. From the initial stages of setting up the program and gaining state approval to currently, with his hands-on approach having an impact on every apprentice who

trains with the PHCC-GSA apprenticeship program, Carrington sets a standard of excellence as a teacher.

"I was a contractor for 30 years," he said. "Teaching was new for me, and I had to learn to think outside the box to figure out how to reach students. But you can see it in their eyes when they get it — when you see these kids light up, then you know you've reached them."

He added: "It was a great honor for me to be selected as the 'Plumbing Instructor of the Year.' It affords me the opportunity, hopefully, to reach out to more plumbing contractors and inform them about our 'concentrated training program' and let them know how well it is working out for all involved. Our goal is to reach out to more contractors and invite them to join the PHCC and take advantage of everything this program has to offer them. My passion is to make this program into the best that it can be and to turn apprentices into well-trained journeymen for the future of the industry."

The selection of Plumbing Instructor of the Year was announced by sponsor Bob Miodonski, publisher and editorial director of CONTRACTOR magazine, at the Instructor Workshop. A plaque was presented to Dick Carrington during the PHCC West convention, May 2-6.

Our educational pipeline: Coming together to serve plumbing and HVACR Instructors

With more than 300 participants, the 2007 HVACR & Plumbing Instructor Workshop March 28-30 in Lansdowne, Va., was another successful and dynamic program. A variety of learning opportunities were provided, including plumbing and HVACR seminars, general sessions on teaching techniques and technologies, updates on career and technical education and company exhibitors with table-top and technical mini-sessions.

Sponsoring the annual workshop, the 10th in the series, were nine industry trade associations: Air Conditioning Contractors of America; Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute; Council of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Educators; Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association; Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International; North American Technician Excellence; Refrigeration Service Engineers Society; SkillsUSA; and the PHCC Educational Foundation.



"This workshop is an industry collaborative event designed exclusively to serve the needs

of plumbing and HVACR instructors," said Steering Committee Chair Gerry Kennedy, PHCC Educational Foundation.

"It provides instructors with information about the latest technology and best practices and offers a venue for information exchange and networking.

"It's an important endeavor, especially when you consider that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that between 2004 and 2014, the construction industry will create 930,000 new jobs. Plumbing jobs will increase by 34% and HVACR industry jobs by 29% — and those numbers do not include replacing retiring workers."

Seminar presentations can be found at www.foundation.phccweb.org/powerpoints/.

The 2008 Instructor Workshop is scheduled for March 5-7 at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne.



Be productive

Training sessions boost productivity, minimize waste and add more profit to your bottom line. PHCC provides a variety of educational opportunities for p-h-c contractors, apprentices and journeymen that move the industry forward. Check them out at www.phccweb.org, or call (800)533-7694.