

Jackie McMaster

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - July 2022



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 2

Union: IBEW

Local: 1547

City: Juneau, AK

Bio

Before becoming an Apprentice Wireman, Jackie McMasters held many job titles; Deckhand, Sale Clerk, Receptionist, Billing Technician, Certified Nurse Aide, Emergency Medical Technician, Bookkeeper, bartender, Janitor, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomist, Medication Counselor, Doner Services Technician, and Operations Manager of the local Blood Bank. Throughout all these careers, Jackie worked incredibly hard but felt she didn't get the appreciation and financial compensation she deserved. Feeling frustrated at the burnout, stress, and lack of self-fulfillment in previous positions, she sought to find a career path that would be more rewarding personally and create a better and more sustainable future for herself and her daughter.

In seeking a higher quality of life through her career, Jackie looked at the things she wanted out of work. With clear goals of wanting her career to be meaningful, provide mental and physical stimulation, and provide a livable wage, retirement options, and comradery, she was naturally drawn to the trades and more specifically a Labor Union.



Jackie applied for the Wireman Apprenticeship and was brought in soon after in January of 2020. Since starting her apprenticeship, she has rotated to two signatory contractor shops in Juneau, AK, and has glowing recommendations from the Journeymen and Shop Stewards she has worked under. As a single mother, Jackie balances parenthood, work assignments, and out-of-town school attendance through her apprenticeship and still finds the time to attend almost all the IBEW 1547 Monthly meetings and volunteer her time with organizing and participating in IBEW events.

Why Jackie Was Nominated

It has been our pleasure to watch Jackie embrace both becoming an IBEW 1547 member as well as being a highly successful Apprentice Wireman throughout her apprenticeship the past two years.

Jackie was initiated into the program in January of 2020. Shortly after starting her apprenticeship, COVID-19 started; Jackie was accommodating and compliant with all requirements asked of her during that time both on the job and through the Union.

Jackie suffered an injury in 2021 and while injured and recovering from surgery lent her hand to both the planning, implementation, and success of both the Juneau Community Litter Free and the Juneau IBEW 1547 Annual Picnic for our members and their families. She took an active role in the Maritime Festival where the IBEW 1547 had a booth, and she lent her skills to give electrical assistance to the organizers of the festival. We have found that anytime we ask for help, Jackie is the first to volunteer, even when she is on crutches, and she shows a remarkable understanding of brotherhood.

Recently, we have started to offer in-person classes once again for Code Upgrades and Grounding and Bonding. As a current apprentice in the Wireman program, it is not necessary for apprentices to participate in these classes, however, on her own initiation Jackie chose to attend the latest classes held. She's always eager and willing to learn and absorb from any source that she can, which really speaks to the goals she has for herself in her apprenticeship and future career.