

Marissa Collins

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - November 2023



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 3 years

Union: Boilermakers

Local: 549

City: Pittsburg, CA

Bio

Marissa Collins, previously a stay-at-home mom of three, found a path to a Boilermaker career while in pursuit of becoming an electrician. Looking to improve herself as an electrician, she wanted to learn how to weld so she would make a higher wage. As she improved her skills and finished welding classes at a local community college, she recognized becoming a Boilermaker was a better fit. In 2019 she indentured into Local 549 and her education through the Boilermakers National Apprenticeship program began.

Marissa is active in her local and is the Outreach Coordinator for her local's women's committee.

Why Marissa Was Nominated

Marissa Collins made an immediate impression on Randy Thomas, Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 549, before they ever officially met. On her car, she had a bumper sticker that said Real Women Weld. He was excited to meet whoever was sporting this sticker and after he did, he said her skills backed up the sticker.



"She's worked quite a few tank jobs because of her welding skills. It's not ordinary to go out and do tank work and usually, it's not many females," said Thomas.

She is not just talented in her trade, she values being a mentor and is passionate about spreading the knowledge of what it means to be a union Boilermaker.

"She lives close by, so she comes by the local hall a lot to practice, update her skills and she's become a mentor for women joining or considering joining," said Thomas. "She went and planned and organized events on her own, even made outreach flyers."

Collins is on Boilermakers Local 549's women's committee and serves as the outreach coordinator.