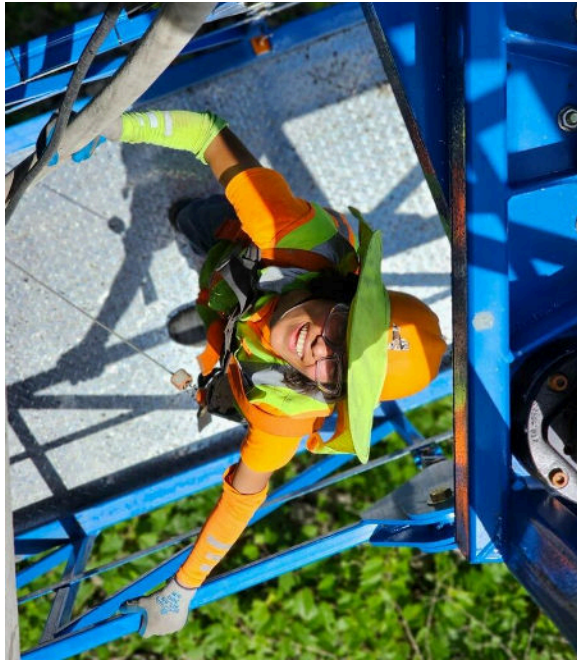


Ixchel Alvarado Osuna
Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - March 2024



Level of Experience: Apprentice

Years in Trade: 1 year

Union: LIUNA

Local: 785

City: Elmira, NY

Bio

Laborer Apprentice Ixchel Alvarado Osuna was born and raised in Southern California, straight out of Compton. She grew up with three older brothers, each of whom she looks up to. Her father is a retired asphalt paver, and her mother is a former childhood development associate, specializing in early childhood development and aiding families with special needs children.

Shortly after graduating from Renaissance High School for the Arts, Ixchel went to México where she helped one of her brothers build his own cob house. Upon her return, Ixchel attended a semester at a community college in Orange County.

Later, after working up the courage, Ixchel drove cross-country to New York City. There, Ixchel first worked under DYCD's Young Adult Internship Program, which propelled her to advance in working for a non-profit organization called AHRC NYC. She worked under Employment & Business Services as a Job Coach for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

As a result of her strong work ethic, she was promoted to Foreman under AHRC's Hudson River Services contract for NYCTA COVID-19 disinfecting and cleaning services, where she



built leadership and interpersonal skills. Ixchel briefly worked as a lumber stacker through a temp agency, enjoying the fast-paced work. During this time Ixchel discovered other opportunities through the CSS Workforce New York program and decided to try out the trades, following in her father's footsteps. She applied for Local 785's apprenticeship program and was accepted as a new and proud union member.

Ixchel has worked in the trades for a year; she has gained experience working in the building trades, specifically in demolition and asbestos abatement. She looks forward to working in other specialties outside the building construction field within the apprenticeship program.

Why Ixchel Was Nominated

Since meeting Ixchel, she has proven to be both an incredible person and laborer. From the onset, she was immensely polite—she sent a thank you after just listening to a brief talk about the union, then sent over a cover letter and resume (neither of which were required) with her application.

During the interview process, Ixchel was the most prepared candidate I have come across yet—she dressed professionally, scoured our

website for information about our local, arrived with a list of prevalent questions, and came in with an energetic attitude that we rarely see. Once again, she sent thank you notes after the interview. As soon as we had a spot for Ixchel we jumped at the opportunity to hire her. She has been an incredible asset since. As her bio states, Ixchel mainly spent the first year of her apprenticeship doing heavy demolition and asbestos abatement. The company that Ixchel worked for was historically non-union but decided to work with us briefly. The superintendent of the job was so impressed by Ixchel's performance that he, each of Ixchel's foremen, and all of the other laborers on site created and signed a petition requesting that she be boosted from apprentice to journeyman status.

Currently, Ixchel has taken on a completely different vein of work and is cleaning bridges along our local Interstate. Though the job is entirely different, Ixchel's attitude is still of the utmost optimism. In her words: "Bridge cleaning is going well. I am learning from the best crew there is. My foreman is great. He pushes me to do better. I think by the end of this job I will be tough as nails!"

Ixchel is an incredible person with an infectious attitude and an incredible laborer with an untouchable work ethic.