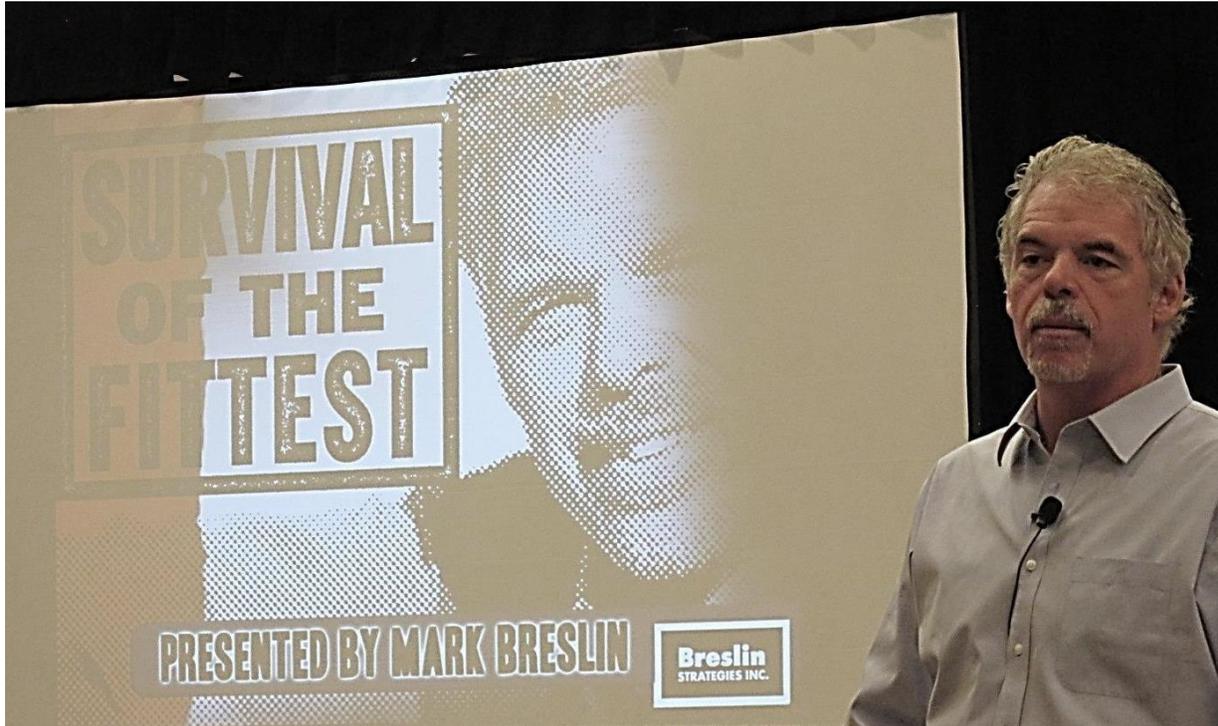


Local 75 apprentices learn skills to thrive on the job



Mark Breslin urges apprentices to work with head and heart, as well as their hands. [Click image to see video highlights.](#)

Ironworker apprentices have long been taught welding and other technical skills that set them apart as the best in the business. But they are pushed to be more than skilled; they are pushed to be innovators and leaders.

That's why the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity also invests in giving the next generation of journeymen the leadership skills necessary to excel on the job. The investment is important to Ironworker partner contractors, who themselves brand their companies as providing the most skilled, professional and innovative teams in construction.

Mark Breslin, a former construction worker turned author and motivational speaker, delivered a powerful, pull-no-punches presentation to 150 apprentices gathered recently in Phoenix.

"Every one of you has talent and ability...(but) are you prepared to do what it takes to succeed in this industry?" Breslin asked the audience that included about 70 apprentices from Local 75. "We need leaders. We need thinking, ambitious go-getters."

He noted hard work isn't enough and that finding a mentor who represents the best in the trade is an important step in building a career.

The skills, attitude and behaviors each worker brings to the job site each day builds the ironworker brand, and similarly the brands of their signatory contractors. Breslin noted buyers turn to brand names for value and reliability – even if they cost a bit more.

Breslin's appearance reflects the Ironworker Union's "commitment to lifelong learning," said Dick Zampa, apprenticeship director for the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity. Breslin is speaking to several groups of apprentices this year.

"Professionalism and leadership are important factors in strengthening our advantage as the most skilled and most productive ironworkers anyone can hire," said Local 75 Business Manager Terry Wright.

Local 75 apprentice Blue Coble said she was inspired by Breslin's call to work smart.

"The three most important tools we bring to the job site are our head, our heart and then our hands," Coble said.

Event video highlights <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsbDHqmp-yM>