

Ironworkers help with Phoenix youth employment program

PHOENIX - Ironworkers Local 75 and its Apprenticeship Training Center not only trains and prepares some of the best apprentices for the ironworking industry, Local leaders also invest in improving the communities where they live and work.

Recently, the Local and training center got involved with a five-week program through the City of Phoenix that offers youth summer employment opportunities.

Ironworkers Local 75 Business Manager Terry Wright says this is the first year they've been able to provide work for students. One intern helps out with clerical duties in the Local Hall's office; the other works at the training center.



Aaron Richardson helps the Ironworkers transfer the training center office files into a digital system.

“We’re always looking for ways to be a positive force in our community, and this program allows us to help teens learn the basics of working in an organization,” says Wright.

Aaron Richardson, a 17-year-old intern and Skyline Prep High School South Mountain senior, helps the training center staff with filing, organizing data and other duties, as needed. He says the most important part is that he’s making connections.

“I’m also learning how to have discipline and just good work habits,” says Richardson, who is part of the Phoenix’s Reach and Invest in Summer Employment, or R.I.S.E., which allows interns to work up to 40 hours a week.

Richardson recommends this summer program to other teens. “It’s good to earn a little bit of extra money and learn about this industry,” he says.

Apprenticeship Coordinator Alan Ruda enjoys teaching the teens to make the transition into the workforce. “This is the training center’s second year doing this and we’ll continue participating and offering our teen workers as much guidance and support as we can,” he says.

Local 75 is part of the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity, which operates training centers in California, Nevada and Arizona. The council represents hardworking, skilled men and women who take on extreme challenges to build bridges, commercial spaces, power-generating structures, sports venues and other buildings.

Learn more:

Ironworkers <http://www.universityofiron.org/home.html>

R.I.S.E <https://www.phoenix.gov/econdevsite/Documents/111331.pdf>