

Washburn Tech Electrical Students Up To Code



Washburn Tech Dean Clark Coco (left) accepts a plaque from ICC Heart of America Chapter President Rod Haney (middle) on behalf of instructor Kelvin Woodland (right) and his electrical students.

Kelvin Woodland's 29 Electrical Technology students hit a statewide milestone when the entire class earned International Code Council (ICC) certificates, making Washburn Tech the first college in Kansas to complete ICC's technical training program and obtain certificates.

Our 100 percent pass rate is a testament to the hard work of our students," said Woodland. "They have the knowledge and understanding of an electrical apprentice. Employers are reassured they have work-ready skills and understand the importance of safety in the workplace."

Rod Haney of Winfield is the president of ICC's Heart of America Chapter and brought the ICC technical training

program to Woodland and other instructors at Washburn Tech. Haney said the addition of ICC instruction to the college's electrical technology program gives the students a wider scope of expertise as they enter the workplace or seek additional college instruction.

"The ICC course is a value-added benefit to any construction technical training at the college level and even at the high school level," Haney said. "It provides a strong background in construction codes and gives students insight not only on how to build, but why building standards are important to safety and integrity of the built environment."

Jim Ellwood, who works with high schools and techni-

cal colleges on behalf of ICC, said a fast-growing number of classrooms are discovering advantages by adding the ICC technical training program to their curriculum.

"When these students graduate and enter the workplace, they're running at least a year or two above their peers with a comprehensive knowledge of construction codes," Ellwood said. "They make a much more valuable new hire for contractors and these students have new insights which can inspire them to become building inspectors or seek degrees in engineering and architecture."

Ebony Humphrey, who completes Washburn Tech's Electrical Technology program this spring, said the more

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certifications she has upon graduation, the better. “This is a great career which presents good opportunities and good pay,” Humphrey said. “Through my accomplishments at Washburn Tech, I try to teach my daughter that a woman can do a man’s job. It is challenging but rewarding at the same time.”

Josh Martin, who also graduates from the program in May, sees Electrical Technology as his connection to a better life. “I’m really glad I got into this field because I enjoy it. It is hands-on and challenging plus I believe I’m leaving Washburn Tech with a good understanding of this field and I’m excited about finding my place in it.”

Haney said there will soon become a very large and growing number of building inspector and related positions coming open in the next decade.

“As the Baby Boom Generation enters retirement, we will see a massive opportunity open up for these professional positions in state and local governments, not only in Kansas, but also across the United States,” Haney said. **BSJO**

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