



# EDWARD RIVES



## APPRENTICE BACKGROUND

Edward graduated from the Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Silver Spring, MD in 2016. He was a part of the Construction Technology Pathway Cluster program at Edison, a program dedicated to promoting the interest of college and career education, related to the construction industry. After two years of industry experience, he decided to continue his career and pursue his apprenticeship with Shapiro & Duncan.

### Why did you choose a career in construction?

Thomas Edison High School showed me the service side of Shapiro & Duncan, but I was unaware that they had a construction side. After I graduated from high school, I worked for a small residential company for almost 2 years; however, I got bored doing the same installs every day. I applied to the S&D HVAC Apprentice opening hoping to learn new skills. They brought me into the construction department and now I have the daily opportunity to learn new things that isn't HVAC. Another reason for pursuing a career in HVAC is that my father also does HVAC, and I inspire to be like my dad.



### How has the program changed your perception career in construction?

My apprenticeship program opened my eyes on how minor details make a difference in construction. Before I started, I thought all pipes go in one direction and lay flat. Now that I am a part of the actual construction process, I see that it is nothing like that.

### What was the main factor in deciding to pursue a career in the trades, rather than a 4-year institution?

My parents could only afford to send one sibling to college, so I evaluated my options and concluded that pursuing a career in construction will yield positive financial results a lot sooner. Also, pursuing a career that allowed me to remain active and put in the physical work was a major factor for me. This career path allows me to achieve both; exercise my physique and yield positive financial results.

### Why did you choose to pursue your apprenticeship with S&D?

When I was back in High school, my HVAC teacher knew about Shapiro & Duncan and recommended it! When I saw an opportunity to work here, I knew I had to pursue it!

### Any advice to a high school student?

Going straight into a 4-year college program, you'll obtain a massive amount of debt and probably not learn skills that will benefit you in the long run. However, going into the trades, you won't obtain any debt and you'll have the opportunity to learn applicable skills that will help you for the rest of your life.

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