



FERNANDO LARA



APPRENTICE BACKGROUND

Fernando is a recent graduate from Thomas Edison High School of Technology in Silver Spring, MD. He was a part of the Construction Technology Pathway Cluster program which promotes and encourages the interest of college and career education related to the construction industry.

Why did you choose a career in construction?

I started by learning from my brothers. That is how I got into HVAC. When I was at Thomas Edison, they talked to me about the opportunities with S&D, which is how I became interested in joining the S&D team. When I joined, I thought I was going into service but instead, they placed me in construction. After my training in construction, I would still like to transfer into service because I would like specified training and to learn more about HVAC.

How has the program changed your perception of pursuing a career in construction?

I thought it was all dry wood, concrete, and stacking up brick. I had no idea all the critical components that goes into raising a building. So many companies working together to accomplish the overall project with all the minor details being check off along the way, it is quite astounding.

What have you enjoyed so far about your career journey as an apprentice?

The people you work with are enjoyable! Almost every day, I learn something new. There's an energy boost knowing that you'll go home with information you didn't have the day before.

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

Shapiro & Duncan seemed like a great company. They provide great benefits, help pay for school, and take care of their people. They communicate through the process and update you with everything you need to know.

What was the main factor in deciding to pursue a career in the trade, rather than a 4 years institution?

The field is more active and more hands on than reading a book, and I felt that I would learn more through hands-on training.

Do you have an advice to a high school student?

Before you pursue a career, think about all of the advantages of pursuing that career, but specifically with pursuing a career in construction, know that everything you do is worth it. You will be given the opportunity to make some serious money and in turn, you'll have to go through the obstacles they give you to succeed.



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