WHAT DOES A MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN DO?

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KARI BREEDLOVE

Journeyworker Limited Maintenance Electrician
Metro Limited Maintenance Electrician JATC
Mulino, Oregon

Kari grew up in a household where both of her parents worked in manufacturing, so she always knew about the benefits of the field, and she entered it as soon as she was able to work to work. After working as an assembler, she landed a job in maintenance at Sunstone Circuits. She excelled at the job and, as she moved up, she learned that her manager, the head electrician of the company, was near retirement. Electricians are in short supply, and companies are relying more and more on apprenticeship programs to train the younger generation of workers to replace retirees. When her boss referred her to the Portland Community College (PCC) Electrical Apprenticeship Program, she was thrilled.

During the program, Kari worked non-stop. She worked full-time at Sunstone Circuits and attended school at PCC two nights a week; through it all, she was a single mother to two daughters. In her apprenticeship program, she loved learning the details about how electricity works and the in-depth encrypted codes in the electrician’s codebook. Kari says that, thanks to the apprenticeship program, she jumped into the field faster than she could have ever imagined. It was hard, but it was worth it.

Since finishing her apprenticeship, Kari has grown in her position at Sunstone and is now inspired to get her PhD in electrical engineering. Recently, her manager retired, and all things electrical at the company were shifted to her responsibility. Kari says she loves the responsibility and the freedom to troubleshoot issues with the knowledge she has gained.

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