
To: Sound & Communication Industry

From: Terry Monroe, Training Director
Northern California Sound & Communication JATC

Date: September 24, 2021

Re: Skilled & Trained Workforce

As you know, the Northern California Sound & Communication JATC has been engaged in efforts to ensure that we register sufficient numbers of apprentices to meet the industry's needs in our jurisdiction. To that end, in 2020, the JATC secured approval from the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards for a new direct entry pathway to our program for installers and technicians with substantial work experience in the industry and who need only a brief additional period of training to complete our program.

This new direct entry pathway credits applicants with up to 5,200 hours of relevant work experience and requires a minimum of an additional six months of training. This new pathway allows the JATC to continue meeting the industry's needs for workers who are enrolled in or graduates of, a registered apprenticeship program and who satisfy the "skilled and trained workforce" requirements that apply to many projects in California.

The JATC has also sought to have our "skilled and trained workforce" pathway to entry recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship. The DOL has recently informed us that it will no longer register our program's "skilled and trained workforce" apprentices. However, the DOL's position should not affect the JATC's ability to supply the sound and communications industry with federally-registered apprentices to meet the industry's needs for apprentices on federally-funded projects. ***All of our apprentices, except those who enter through the skilled and trained workforce pathway, are federally registered.*** In addition, those students of our program who have entered through the skilled and trained workforce pathway continue to be employable as journey-level workers on all projects, including federally-funded projects.

The JATC remains committed to supporting the industry's growing needs for a skilled workforce. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Yours for the Committee,



Training Director
Northern California Sound and Communication
Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee