



227 Maple Ave.
Keene, NH 03431
603.357.0088 x304
keenecommunityed.org

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Keene Community Education Receives \$20,000 Grant to Prepare Students for Jobs in the Skilled Trades

Keene, NH – May 19, 2025 – This month, Keene Community Education learned that it was one of 25 sites nationwide selected for a \$20,000 grant to help prepare students for careers in the trades, and for further study in electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or construction apprenticeships. Locally, there are over 100 job openings in these skilled construction trades. Repeatedly, employers have stated that they seek to hire candidates with basic skills in construction who can be further trained in their specific industry.

Adults who complete the Skilled Trades Pre-Apprenticeship will earn two nationally recognized credentials: an OSHA 10 certification and the NCCER CORE credential. NCCER Core proves to employers that the applicant has the foundational skills required for a job in the construction trades. These foundational skills include the safe use of hand and power tools, basic construction math, blueprint reading, workplace communication, digital literacy, and the appropriate handling of materials. Students will have the opportunity to learn from experienced electrical and plumbing apprenticeship instructors as well as to meet with local employers.

The Skilled Trades Pre-Apprenticeship grant is funded by the Lowe's Foundation, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). Thanks to their generosity, we are able to offer this 10-week course for only \$500/student. Their generosity also funds training for the instructors, online resources and testing subscriptions for the students, the OSHA 10 certification, hand and power tools, and classroom materials.

The course will be taught by Bill Sevigny and Travis Castor. Bill is a licensed electrician and an electrical apprenticeship instructor at both Keene Community Education and the Windham

Regional Career Center. Travis Castor is a licensed plumber and plumbing apprenticeship instructor at Keene Community Education. Both have many years of experience teaching apprentices in our region.

The course schedule is designed to be convenient for working adults as well as for high school students who have finished their senior year. Classes will begin June 2 and will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Cheshire Career Center and Keene Community Education. The last class is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, which will allow students to immediately enter the plumbing or electrical apprenticeship programs and construction trades employment.

For more information or to register, please visit our website at

<https://keenecommunityed.org/announcements/skilled-trade-pre-apprenticeship/>, email

Heather Jasmin at hjasmin@sau29.org, or call 603.357.0088.