



Pierce County Roofers Apprenticeship – Rachel Geyer

The Pierce County Roofers Apprenticeship, in affiliation with Roofers Local 153, is a state recognized, 5,000 hour on the Job training program that specializes in the instruction and installation of roofing and waterproofing systems. Each of our apprentices attain a minimum of 364 hours of Related Supplemental Instruction as a registered student of Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Washington. Our geographical training area encompasses all of Pierce, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Pacific Counties with headquarters in Tacoma, Washington. Our program received permanent registration by Labor and Industries, Apprenticeship Section back in July of 1969 and has been going strong to this day. Graduates earn a Washington State Journey level card, an International Journey level card that's recognized throughout the 50 states, as well as certificate in the trade of roofing from Clover Park Technical College.

I have been in my current position as Apprenticeship Director since the spring of 2015, However, my love and passion of the trade of roofing began early on in my childhood. Growing up, I was a witness to the quality of life a career in the trades can provide. I watched as my grandfather supported his family, my mom, and her siblings with a reliable income with great benefits. Since then, I have seen numerous family and friends make a good life for themselves, crediting the trade.

The Pierce County Roofers Apprenticeship Training committee is committed to providing the best quality of training to our workforce. As stated previously, we specialize in Roofing and Waterproofing systems and most of our work is performed on commercial projects. We take the safety of our roofers very seriously, making an 8-hour fundamentals of safety training class mandatory to complete the final portion of our hiring process. In addition, all apprentice's progress is tracked and evaluated at each step as they proceed through the program. One detail that sets us aside from other programs is the required knowledge-based assessment that all apprentices must successfully demonstrate in order to complete the program. We ensure that only the best well-rounded roofers receive the credential to be recognized as industry experts.

Safety and quality training is our number one priority. Other areas of focus are to increase awareness of our program, especially in geographical regions that may be underrepresented. We, the roofers have come along way to ensure that women and people of color have equal access to a sustainable career in roofing. In 2015, our female participation numbers were not where we would have liked to see them, with only one woman graduate on record. Today, our program is proud to have 19 women in the trade and love to boast about the several women in roofing that have completed and received their journey level credential, just this year alone. Currently our program has a total of 157 active apprentices, 12.1% being women in the trade and 113 or 71.9% are people who identify to be from BIPOC communities. We

also focus on increasing awareness of the trade and providing a “second chance” to formerly incarcerated individuals.

What I love most about the Pierce County Roofers is the comradery, the relationships are long lasting and significant. I really enjoy watching our apprentices grow, beginning with minimal knowledge to completion of their apprenticeship to beyond. Mentorship is another amazing aspect, seeing an apprentice mentor a fellow roofing apprentice provides evidence of our efforts. I love that our committee really cares about the apprentices in our program, and I love that we do more than just train, we provide mentorship well beyond the apprenticeship years.

Other highlights include the expansion of our training capabilities. We have been successful in receiving grant funding to help improve our approach in providing remote learning. Not only do we, for the first time ever, instruct virtually, we also now have the ability to bring our training to our contractors in need, with our recent purchase of a mobile training trailer.

Our program is intentionally involved in many construction focused initiatives providing comments to the legislature as needed to help support and build up the construction industry as a whole. We actively participate in Washington State Apprenticeship Council Meetings, host the Western Washington Apprenticeship Coordinator’s quarterly meeting, and participate in many industry related advisory boards.

The Pierce County Roofers would love to connect with anyone who is interested in learning more about our wonderful apprenticeship opportunities. Please check out our website at www.piercecountyroofers.com , email Racheal@piercecountyroofers.com, give us a call at 253-474-0528, or stop in for a chat at 3049 S 36th St. Suite 213, Tacoma, WA 98409.