Graduates of NEIEP’s apprenticeship program are now eligible to receive up to 38 college credits from more than 100 accredited colleges and technical schools across the US for the classroom and on-the-job training hours they completed during their apprenticeship.

The Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium (RACC) was started in 2014 by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education to provide apprenticeship graduates with more opportunities to complete associate and baccalaureate degrees. The RACC includes 104 colleges representing 387 campuses; five national registered apprenticeship programs representing 575 training centers; and eight organizations that represent post-secondary institutions or registered apprenticeship programs.

The partnership with the Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium (RACC) is not meant to replace NEIEP’s existing higher education partnerships; rather, it will broaden the scope of transfer options for NEIEP graduates. “Different colleges are a better fit for different individuals,” says Maggie Cleveland, NEIEP’s Curriculum Development and Credentialing Manager. “For example, an Elevator Constructor interested in pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree might opt for Goddard College’s low-residency program, where they’ll receive 52 college credits toward a BA – while an Elevator Constructor who is interested in an Associate’s Degree and wants to attend school closer to home might prefer one of the community colleges available through RACC.”

While each college has the final say on the exact number of credits an incoming student will receive (based on the college’s transfer policies, as well as any applicable laws in the state where the college is located), the RACC has used as a model an independent curriculum review performed by Thomas Edison State College, which assessed the NEIEP curriculum at 38 credits. Some colleges also accept additional transfer credits from other colleges and/or military training – check with the school’s admissions office for details.

To see the list of colleges offering credit to NEIEP graduates via the RACC, visit http://www.doleta.gov/oa/RACC/College_Members.cfm. To learn more about NEIEP’s other college partnerships, visit https://www.neiep.org/News/bst-College-Transfer.aspx or contact Maggie Cleveland at mcleveland@neiep.org.
The new union hall in Local 140, Phoenix, served as an ideal venue for an exhibition of NEIEP’s labs and educational resources. On February 18, Business Manager Randy Storr and members of Local 140 hosted an event at the new location on East Thomas Road in Phoenix, which provided the membership, as well as government and local company reps, the chance to explore all that NEIEP has to offer.

The response to the NEIEP Fair in Phoenix was outstanding. NEIEP staff was busy throughout the day, with a steady flow of guests who took the time to learn about the many current and emerging educational resources provided by the organization. Several members showed interest in signing up for continuing education courses designed to provide in-depth exploration of procedures and equipment. Especially positive were the number of new apprentices who made their way through the exhibit, excited with the anticipation of using the labs on display in their classroom training in years to come.

David Aranda, NEIEP’s Area Coordinator for the Southwest, played a key role in bringing the event to life, and he was pleased with the results. “The NEIEP Fair in Phoenix went extremely well with the help of all involved,” Aranda explained. “The layout of the exhibits in the new space made it easy for mechanics and apprentices who came through to see all of the educational resources available to them. Local 140’s new hall is something that all locals dream of, allowing NEIEP to fully expand the ability to provide the full array of training. A space like this brings the entire local together, inspiring apprentices and mechanics alike to take more classes and to be fully engaged as a membership.”

Randy Storr summed up the event in one word: “Phenomenal.” He added, “From the membership to the signatory companies to state elevator inspectors to the office management personnel who came through that day, all were highly impressed with the continuing education and also the format that NEIEP put on display for us.

“The professionalism of the NEIEP staff that came and put on the event for us is by far the pinnacle of this industry. A special thank you to David Aranda, our NEIEP Area Coordinator, for making it all happen for us.” For more images from the Phoenix NEIEP Fair, visit neiep.org/gallery.aspx
Members of Local 71, Miami, FL, were on hand January 12 to celebrate the opening of the local’s new NEIEP training facility, and what an inaugural event it was. NEIEP staff were pleased to exhibit our learning tools, curriculum, and other educational opportunities for the membership as well as local company and government representatives, who attended the event in great numbers throughout the day. NEIEP apprenticeship and continuing education ruled the day, as attendees were given the chance to explore the full array of labs and resources available to the membership.

NEIEP Area Coordinator Frank Lopez hosted the event and, along with a group of dedicated Local 71 members, worked diligently to complete the final preparations to the facility before show time. The newly refurbished training space boasts ample classrooms to accommodate the many apprenticeship and continuing education courses NEIEP offers, along with the labs and training tools developed to provide a hands-on learning experience. The Local 71 facility worked very well as a venue to exhibit the full scope of NEIEP training. Labs on display included the Hoistway Lab, Electralab, the Door Operator Labs, as well as Solid State, HCL, and Motor-Generator. The Hydraulic Valve Simulator Lab was also exhibited, along with Scaffolding, Rigging and Signaling, and several labs moving through the development phase now, including the Pipe & Wire Lab, Line Starter/Motor, and Microprocessor Labs.

Perhaps the area that most captivated the attendees was the virtual offerings, including the Virtual Escalator Lab and the Virtual HCL, offering equipment exploration and troubleshooting experience through interactive 3D models. Attendee response to the NEIEP resources, as well as the newly-minted training space, was overwhelming. Michael Chavez, Chief Elevator Inspector for Miami-Dade Co., offered his response: “I was blown away by the NEIEP classroom program setup here in Miami, FL. It is light-years ahead of where the industry was when I started in 1972. It’s exactly what young men and women need for educating themselves about the elevator industry before they get started in the field.”

Mike Walker, Supervisor for KONE Elevator, and Local 71 JAC Chairman, was appreciative of the hard work that went into making the new facility launch a success: “I think this local, and Frank Lopez, here in Miami, have done an outstanding job of putting this place together in such a short period of time, and I look forward to all of my apprentices that work directly for me being able to go through this program and growing as elevator mechanics in the trade.”

The Local 71 membership was in attendance in large numbers to celebrate the opening of their new school building, and mechanics and apprentices alike exhibited a lot of enthusiasm for what they saw. John McClain, a Local 71 Mechanic, was optimistic for the future of high quality elevator education in the local, and beyond, and was especially taken with the new approaches to hands-on learning. McClain responded, “I think the facility is going to be great for the future of our local and for the industry in general. I see a lot of hands-on items that are going to make learning this trade a lot easier than it was even a few years ago when I took the Mechanic’s test.”

Carla Parke, a Year 4 Apprentice in Local 71, said, “I was pleased to see all the work finally come together. I know everyone has been working diligently to get all the pieces to come together. For me it’s a good time to be in the field and to be learning this stuff hands-on. I feel privileged to be in at a time when this is coming about. It’s wonderful.” She explained that the hands-on approach to training that NEIEP is focusing on suits her learning needs. “It’s important that the theory translates to the practical, and that’s what those labs do for me.”

For more images from the Miami NEIEP Fair, visit www.neiep.org/gallery.aspx.
First off, congratulations, on the birth of your son, Alexander George Gordon, last month.

Thank you very much, it’s been fun.

How long have you worked for NEIEP?

I’ve been here just about eight years. I started kind of as a fluke. John O’Donnell and Ken Hart came to New England Institute of Technology, where I was finishing school, looking for someone to fill the role of producing videos. The head of my school program recommended me so I came up here, interviewed, and got the job. It turned out it was just part-time at first, but then in a few months it turned into full-time, and that’s that. When I started, the cameras and equipment we had were a bit limited, but since then we’ve built the new studio and we have all sorts of quality equipment we can use. The industry has advanced too, now we’re shooting with DSLR cameras that are much more flexible, the picture looks great. The advancements in the software have made everything, I don’t want to say easier, but a little more intuitive. It definitely streamlined my process. We’re also using more advanced techniques than we were when I was first out of college, and that is just a natural progression I think.

What did you do before you worked for NEIEP?

I was in school and I was working part-time for a guy who had his own video production company, but he mostly did weddings and bar mitzvahs and sporting events and that kind of thing. I definitely learned some stuff from him but I didn’t work for him for too long, it was nights and weekends and weddings and brides and...

I never really wanted to do the wedding thing, I always wanted to do the corporate thing, so this just kind of fit.

What are your favorite parts of your job?

I would say my favorite part of the job is the creative control. I do get a lot of help from Bill Chartier, Maggie Cleveland, Jon Henson, and Lester White, they go with me on shoots and help me set up and perform interviews. But when it’s editing it’s more just me, especially when it’s interviews. If we’re interviewing multiple people and I have to tie all those interviews together to tell the story, I really enjoy it, telling a story through other people’s words.

In your work, what motivates you the most?

To put out a quality piece. I strive for putting out an effective piece, something that someone is going to remember, something someone’s going to look at and be like “Oh that would be a good fit for me.” For example, with the college promo videos we’re doing, I would like people to watch the video and be like “Oh, I should really look into this more.” I don’t want people to start watching the video and after 30 seconds click off because it’s not interesting. So, telling a good story and telling it effectively, that’s pretty much what motivates me.

You were very recently the recipient of five awards from AVA for three videos you’ve produced. Can you tell us a little about what the process of creating those videos was like for you?

So, the Thomas Edison Partnership Video was the first one completed in the Higher Education Partnership Series. That one was one of the first ones that we did with off-site people. We went down to Thomas Edison State College and we interviewed them and we took shots of the campus and everything. Putting it together was a different experience for me because I had to work with Thomas Edison more than NEIEP. I would put together a first draft and send it to them and be like, “What do you think?” It was almost like working with a client because it wasn’t really a video promoting NEIEP, it was more of a video promoting Thomas Edison State College so I needed to ensure it was portraying them in the best light possible.

The NEIEP Instructor Training Program video was one of the first ones we did where we interviewed multiple people and wove everything together in a threaded narrative to explain the story without using a voiceover, which I think is much more of an effective video than using voiceovers nowadays. You’re hearing it from the instructors’ mouths. We had new instructors, we had veteran instructors, and everybody was very gracious and willing to do it. It was a very positive experience. With that video, I used a lot of different shooting techniques which I’ve picked up using the DSLR technology. So I got to use sliders, jibs and the glide cam to get different types of shots. I kind of used that video to build up and learn some new skills, so that was fun.

The recap video of the JUEC Convention also had some different techniques from what we would normally do. We used GoPro cameras to record time-lapse video from multiple locations. That was the first time I had ever really done anything like that and it was a lot of fun. With that video, we wanted to give an overview of what happened and it was a pretty good event and we got very good feedback from it.

What’s the #1 most played song on your iPod?

Well, if you want me to be truthful, right now it’s Frozen. Frozen songs. Because Caitlyn listens to Frozen 24/7. And it’s not even just “Let It Go,” it’s the whole soundtrack. Which is at least better than “Let It Go” 24/7. But, when I’m on my own, usually I’ll put on Dave Matthews or Guster.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Right now? It’s washing bottles. Alex is about six weeks old now and he eats every two and a half to three hours, so
work out the way you wanted it to, you have to try and find something else, or do a re-shoot. There’s just a lot that goes into video production and usually creating a quality video is a couple months’ worth of work, and I’m usually working on more than one video at once.

If you’re looking to get into video work, just keep up with the trends and equipment. I watch a lot of tutorials and I’m always trying to get new ideas and incorporate new techniques. If you’re just starting out, you’re probably better off taking whatever jobs you can find. Don’t be afraid to try new stuff. It doesn’t always work out, but just take more video than you need ‘cause you never know, and just keep trying.

If you could learn to do any one thing instantly without any effort, what would it be?

I think I’d like to try to fly a plane. Like a fighter plane. When I was little I always wanted to be a fighter jet pilot.

When you have 30 minutes of free-time, how do you pass the time?

Right now it’s just catching up on DVR, and usually it’s when I’m holding Alex trying to get him to go to sleep. When it’s warmer I like to get out into the garden. We try to grow some of our own fruits & vegetables. We have strawberries and we started blueberries last year. If I didn’t have to work, if I won the lottery, I would probably garden quite a bit.

Is there anything you would like the readers of Conduit, or anyone else for that matter, to know about you or the job you do?

I would say that there’s a lot of time and thought and preparation that goes into producing the videos. From deciding “what do we want to say,” to prepping the script, to setting up the right shot, to figuring out what kind of direction we want people to go in without putting words in their mouths during interviews. It’s kind of a skill to get people to talk in front of the camera, so there’s a lot of work that goes into it. And then in post-production, going through everything you’ve done and figuring out, “What’s the best shot? What’s the best sound bite?” If something didn’t work out the way you wanted it to, you have to try and find something else, or do a re-shoot. There’s just a lot that goes into video production and usually creating a quality video is a couple months’ worth of work, and I’m usually working on more than one video at once.

If you’re looking to get into video work, just keep up with the trends and equipment. I watch a lot of tutorials and I’m always trying to get new ideas and incorporate new techniques. If you’re just starting out, you’re probably better off taking whatever jobs you can find. Don’t be afraid to try new stuff. It doesn’t always work out, but just take more video than you need ‘cause you never know, and just keep trying.

Financial Tools for the Trades

NEIEP is pleased to offer CE022 Financial Tools for the Trades as an online continuing education course in financial literacy and management. While the course is geared toward those just starting out in their careers, Financial Tools for the Trades isn’t just a course for apprentices - the information it provides is useful and relevant for any elevator constructor, no matter their level of experience. Everyone needs to know how to manage their money.

Financial Tools for the Trades provides an easy-to-understand overview of topics including:

• creating and sticking to a budget
• setting up spending and savings plans
• reading & understanding credit reports
• managing debt and fixing credit scores
• guarding against identity theft
• setting up an emergency fund in case of a layoff
• planning for long term goals (like buying a house, and saving for kids’ college funds or retirement)

With a little planning and a few tools, apprentices and mechanics can be prepared for the inevitable financial ups and downs we all encounter – and this new course will give them a great place to start. CE022 is available now. Visit the Online Training and Licensing page at neiep.org and register today.
In October of 2014 NEIEP and its members began an enormous undertaking. At the behest of the Board of Trustees and for the betterment of everyone involved in the trade, NEIEP has endeavored to have all its members trained in CPR, First Aid and AED (automated external defibrillator) through a partnership with the American Heart Association. This task’s import and impact are not being taken lightly. In October NEIEP began holding seminars to train instructors, and those instructors have already begun to transfer those skills to students in their locals. Our goal is to continue to widen the network of instructors and certified students until our entire membership is trained.

NEIEP CPR classes are open to all active members, including probationary apprentices. Instructors can create classes of no more than nine and no less than three students at a time, and all the necessary materials, including training dummies, gauze and bandages will be provided by NEIEP. Classes are usually conducted in one day and, after completion of a written test, the students will be First Aid, CPR and AED certified through the AHA. After all the paperwork is returned to NEIEP, certification cards are sent out electronically to the student’s email, along with login information to the AHA’s website. This allows students instant access to both their credentials and lifesaving information from the AHA.

The benefit of these courses for people working in construction and maintenance trades almost goes without saying, but the wider impact of training our membership benefits more than just elevator mechanics. The AHA has cited that, “Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival, but only 32 percent of cardiac arrest victims get CPR from a bystander.” These CPR courses are designed not only to impart knowledge and skills, but also confidence. Giving people the confidence that they can help, that they have the power to change a situation from dire to controlled, is almost as powerful as knowing how to use a defibrillator or administer CPR. It’s also true that this training has a wide reaching effect on the lives of our members’ families and communities. According to the AHA, “Nearly 383,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur annually, and 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home.” Additionally, “Statistically speaking, if called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely to be someone at home: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.” These courses are far from just an extra safety net for jobsites. By becoming CPR First Aid and AED certified, we are helping to make sure that competent, skilled people exist in our communities, people who are prepared to jump in and help at a moment’s notice, and who will administer the best care they can.
Over the last several years NEIEP’s Video Development Department has made a commitment to producing materials that both inform and educate our members. From training videos that allow mechanics to gain a better understanding of the systems they work with, to promotional videos celebrating partnerships and opportunities, NEIEP has set standards of excellence that are difficult to beat. These standards are embodied by our Video Development Manager, Jeffrey Gordon, who has been recognized for his effort and dedication by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals and the AVA Digital Awards committee. Gordon has received six awards from the international competition whose goal it is to honor the creators of benchmark media in the industry.

The AVA Digital Awards make it their mission to, “recognize outstanding work by creative professionals involved in the concept, directions, design and production of media that is part of the evolution of digital communication.” Gordon’s role as Video Development Manager means that he is deeply involved in each of these categories, and his dedication to advancing both NEIEP’s use of media and the evolution of digital communication as a whole comes through in his work.

AVA’s award structure is three-tiered, with the most outstanding submissions receiving Platinum awards for “excellence in terms of quality, creativity and resourcefulness.” Gordon’s video “Thomas Edison State College Partnership” received two Platinum awards for Video for the Web/Informational category and for Video Production/Informational category. About 15 percent of entrants from around the world won in these categories. Additionally, “NEIEP’s Instructor Training Program” also won two gold awards in the same categories and “NEIEP Fair at the 2014 IUEC International Convention” won honorable mention for the Video Production/Event category and Video for the Web/Event category. To view these videos, and other excellent works produced by NEIEP’s Video Development Department, use a QR scanner to navigate directly to our website on your phone, or go to the NEIEP YouTube page to watch on your phone or computer.
The staff of Conduit and the members of NEIEP would like to extend an invitation to all of our readers to become a part of this publication. We would like to open a new quarterly feature called “Up-Lifting”, aimed at connecting people and ideas, showcasing excellent work and problem solving, and recognizing our member’s achievements.

Would you like to share an idea you had on a particularly difficult job, or how you overcame a problem or setback? What is your favorite elevator you ever worked on? What part of your work makes you the most proud? As a mechanic, what advice can you give to apprentices, or to those who aspire to become apprentices? What knowledge have you gained from your experiences as a member of the union, or the trade as a whole, that you truly value?

We would like to open the floor to you, and encourage your experiences and ideas to be part of a showcase of excellence. It is our hope that these features will allow our readers to expand their understanding of the industry, think critically about their own work and take pride in their accomplishments.

When drafting an entry, be sure to include:
- Full name, including middle initial and suffix if applicable.
- Local number
- Email or telephone number (for the writing staff’s use only)
- A picture, if possible, either of the work you did, or of yourself on the job. (Not required)

Please try to keep your entries between 200 and 400 words.

When writing, please try for an informal but detailed style. Remember that you are telling a story.

Send submissions to:
ecarter@neiep.org

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS-SPRING SEMESTER

WEEK 10 (April 6-April 11) This week classroom rosters and class participation are reviewed. Students that have zero participation, to date, are dropped from class and reported to JAC for follow up.

WEEK 13 (April 27-May 2) & WEEK 17 (May 25- May 30)-MAKE-UP Classes

These weeks are reserved for Make-up classes. Please submit class for approval prior to the date of the class. A minimum of 2 students, that need a make-up class, have to be present in order for the class to be held. If less, the class cannot be funded.

MISSING REQUIREMENTS REPORT: JAC is encouraged to routinely check the Missing Requirements Report (MRR) to monitor student’s progress. Any discrepancies, missed unit exams or attendance issues should be corrected with NEIEP prior to the next scheduled class.

WEEK 18 (June 1-June 6) FINAL EXAMS COMMENCE

Shipment dates for final exams will be posted when defined.

BUFFER WEEKS (June 8-June 20) Final weeks of the semester are reserved for any class that was forced to be rescheduled due to weather or a holiday. All unit exams, attendance, final exams or record discrepancies must be resolved no later than June 26. June 26 is the closing date for the Semester. Any issue not resolved on or before this date is recommended to go before the JAC.

NEIEP CALENDAR Important Dates for Spring 2015

May

May 25
NEIEP Closed Holiday

Friendly Reminder: Student grades and attendance are due to the NEIEP office within seven (7) days from the date the class was held. Also, keep in mind that payroll closes the 7th of the month.