

CURRENTS

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The Apprentice School will begin granting associate degrees in 2023. Photo by Ashley Cowan

The Apprentice School to Offer Academic Degrees

The Council for Occupational Education recently certified The Apprentice School to provide academic degrees in 26 educational programs.

Starting in 2023, the school will grant associate degrees of applied science in maritime technology to apprentices who complete the required coursework and skills training,

including maintenance electrician, marine designer, nuclear test technician, welding and modeling and simulation program analyst.

“We’re proud to expand our competitive skills training and leadership program to offer academic degrees to apprentices,” said **Latitia McCane**, director of Education at The Apprentice School. “This historic achievement is a natural progression to the investment in workforce development we have made to recruit, train and develop the next generation of shipbuilders, and provide continued opportunities for personal and professional growth.”

The Apprentice School, which has been accredited since 1982, affords apprentices the opportunity to earn academic degrees through its existing partnerships with institutions of higher education. Certification to grant associate degrees and confer degrees on its own comes after The Apprentice School was approved by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia to operate as a postsecondary institution in July 2020.

It also comes after The Apprentice School established its first certificate program in 2019, awarding maritime studies certificates to apprentices who successfully complete the World Class Shipbuilding Curriculum. In 2019, it also piloted a workforce readiness program that prepares high school students for entry into a registered apprenticeship program or a shipbuilding career upon graduation.

NNS Takes COVID-19 Vaccines to Shipbuilders

For three days this week, Newport News Shipbuilding employees who want a COVID-19 vaccination won’t have to leave the shipyard to get it, and two lucky winners will receive a prize.

Mobile vaccination sites will be up and running on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary, and the sites will be at the following locations:

- **Wednesday:** North Yard, CMAF, first floor conference room and break area
- **Thursday:** South Yard, Bldg. 4633-3, HME Room (southeast of Dry Dock 1)
- **Friday:** Mid Yard, Bldg. 4931-1 Assembly Room (east of MOF)

The medical staff at QuadMed, which operates the HII Family Health Center, will administer the vaccines. Since February, QuadMed has vaccinated thousands of NNS employees at the NNS Vaccination Site, which is located at the Old Apprentice School Gym. Drawings for an Apple Watch and an NNS swag bag will be held on Friday. All shipbuilders who have either been vaccinated through the NNS program or registered their vaccination on UPoint will be eligible to win.

Vaccination efforts will continue at the Old Apprentice School Gym through Friday, May 28. Vaccinations will then transition to the HII Family Health Center.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines offered by NNS require two injections, and employees

are paid up to 1.5 hours each time they receive a dose of the vaccine. Pay will not be offered once the transition to the health center occurs.

“We have plenty of vaccine available, and with summer vacations and travel coming up, this is the perfect time to get protected from COVID-19,” said Dr. **Steve Apostoles**, NNS medical director. “Boosting vaccination levels throughout the shipyard takes us one step closer to continuing our mission-critical work without the need for masks, social distancing and other protections.”

Vaccines are not mandatory at NNS, but they are highly encouraged as a way for shipbuilders to safeguard their own health as well as other employees.

Shipbuilders Go All In for “Big Blue” Repair

A rare winter lightning strike is believed to have caused damage to “Big Blue,” Newport News Shipbuilding’s 1,050-metric-ton crane, earlier this year. It threatened to disrupt planned lifts for the Carrier New Construction, *Virginia*-Class Submarine and *Columbia*-Class Submarine programs.

Adding to the urgency was the fact that the crane was due to be out of service for a month for its annual certification and biennial load testing in February. Once certification expires, the crane is unusable until it is inspected, inspection discrepancies are resolved and preventative maintenance is performed.

However, a group of shipbuilders from O48, O43 and X36 worked around the clock in unfavorable weather conditions to figure out the issue and get the crane back in service within days.

“Our most important asset was down – at one of the worst times for it to be down – and a small group of shipbuilders worked long hours in bad weather using their knowledge, experience and determination, all the time with a great attitude, to get that asset back up and running,” said O48 Manager **Ryan Lewis**.

Sometime overnight on Feb. 15 or in the early morning hours of Feb. 16, “Big Blue” and a nearby 200-metric-ton crane sustained damage. An assessment on Feb. 16 found a blown fuse. However, after a replacement fuse blew right away, shipbuilders found a burnt control board and a bad motor.

The next day, shipbuilders installed new equipment and continued troubleshooting. X36 General Foreman **Jeff Schultz** is in charge of the crew that operates “Big Blue” and the mobile crane team that

removed the bad motor and transported the replacement. He said both crews were “all in” and knew the repair was vital.

“We controlled our own destiny by making it a pretty speedy repair,” Schultz said. “The quicker we got it back online, the sooner we could get back to work.”

“Big Blue” returned to service before noon on Feb. 18. “It was extremely encouraging to see how hard the team was working in the background to do everything they could to get that crane back up and running,” said Final Assembly Superintendent **Sam Carper**. “There was a can-do attitude the whole time. Everybody understood the importance and really leaned in.”

While he praised shipbuilders’ fast work, constant communication and coordination, Carper also was glad safety remained a priority when ice formed on the top of the crane. “They were going as fast as they possibly could, but when the conditions were not safe, they stopped, regrouped and waited for the ice to melt,” he said.

Shipbuilders involved in the repair included **Mark May** (O48), **Vernon MtCastle** (O43), **Brian Boone** (O43), **Bill Russell** (O43), **Austin Kemp** (O48) and **Eric Troshin** (O48), **Brad Sullivan** (X36), **Michael Williams** (X36), **Justin Belvin** (X36), **Calvin Atkins** (X36), **Charlie Holloway** (X36), **Mario Harris** (X36), **Charles George** (X36), **Louis Onore** (X36), **David Dales** (X36) and **Marshall Hearst** (O43).

“Those gentlemen gave effort above and beyond normal expectations, and I cannot thank any of them enough,” Lewis said.

Wall Art Pays Tribute to Shipbuilders

Ryan David (X11) has left a unique mark on the wall of a craft learning center outside the Supplemental Modular Outfitting Facility (SMOF).

Last year, he was approached to create a mural-like drawing to represent X11 on a blank wall in the space that craftsmen and craftswomen use to develop skills. He recently completed the artwork, which features four shipbuilders – drawn using photos of fellow employees – and an X11 logo.

David, a Navy veteran, said he was grateful for the opportunity to represent his trade’s core values and draw people he knows and has worked alongside.

“It’s probably the most important drawing I’ve done,” he said. “I’ve got tons of drawings at home that are probably going to sit in a drawer, and maybe my kids will look at them later, but this is



Ryan David stands with the artwork he created to represent X11. Photo by Ashley Cowan

something that will be on display for a long time. It’s a good feeling to know that.”

A fixative has been applied to the drawing – done in pencil – to preserve and protect it.

AROUND THE YARD



Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May, take time to not only recognize the great achievements and innovations of Asian Pacific Americans throughout our nation's history, but also their significant impact on the success of Newport News Shipbuilding.

Look for posters recognizing the 2021 national theme – Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Science – across NNS during the month. Additional coverage is available in the Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion section of the NNS to Go app.



Twenty Shipbuilders Complete Facilitation 101

Twenty employees successfully completed Newport News Shipbuilding's Facilitation 101 two-day course March 18. The course teaches the basic skills necessary for anyone who leads meetings, coordinates teams or manages projects.

Employees interested in future training sessions can enroll in the course through the Learning Exchange (LX) by using keyword search "facilitation" or by contacting **Gladys O. Smith** (O53) via email.

Seating is limited to the first 20 registrants, and supervisor permission is required.

Shipbuilders who completed the course March 18 include **Amy B. O'Donnell** (O43), **Brian W. Tapajna** (X51), **Elise M. Beck** (X51), **Nolan A. Randolph** (X51), **Gerald W. Miller** (X51), **Mark C. Enderson** (O52), **Randall Willis** (X51), **Gil Benham** (X51), **Richard W. Aiken** (X51), **Kendall Blackston Jr.** (X51), **Oliver D. Harris** (O06), **Tylan D. Evans** (X51), **Zac Lyles** (X51), **Felicia N. Ceasor** (X10), **Rachel A. Biehl** (X51), **Naomi G. Ghirmai** (X51), **Joshua D. Buchanan** (M10), **Michael W. Lynk** (X51), **Jason Jaques** (X51) and **Corey A. Dixon** (O93).

Are You Prepared for a Time-Keeping Audit?

As a government contractor, Newport News Shipbuilding is regularly audited by the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). DCAA examines the company's time-charging controls and ensures that the workforce knows where to find time charging resources, including policy SSO No. 10-403.

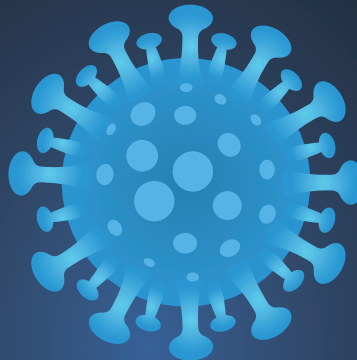
The Labor Compliance Department (O73) provides insight by highlighting areas for improvement and offering help to these areas. Labor Compliance conducts thousands of floor check audits (either through in-person or electronic labor surveys) during the year to serve as an educational resource, ensure compliance with time-keeping policies and regulations, and prepare the workforce for potential DCAA audits.

Any shipbuilder can be audited by DCAA on the Time Keeping Policy at any time. Contact Labor Compliance at O73LaborCompliance@hii-nns.com for questions regarding time-keeping policies and procedures.

Workers' Memorial Day

Newport News Shipbuilding observed Workers' Memorial Day on April 28 to remember and honor workers around the world who lost their lives, were injured or became ill on the job. . It also is an opportunity for employees to recommit to making good, safe decisions; looking out for others; and speaking up when they see something unsafe. Watch a video on MyNNS to hear why safety should always be at the forefront at NNS.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



Cases reported last week: **41**

Total cases at NNS: **3,523**

Total number of NNS employees medically cleared to return to work: **2,833**

See case details at nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

DATEBOOK

MAY 4-JUNE 1

Thriving Together empowers participants to fight back against cancer. This five-week, virtual group session will teach you the importance of positivity, resilience, diet and exercise to thrive in your or a loved one's fight, and will help you gain strength through others. Sessions are held at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. To register, visit myquadmed.com/BeWell.

MAY 10

The Engagement and Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) offices invite shipbuilders to join their monthly ED&I Together Strong Life Unites Panel Discussion Series: Navigating Through Change at 4:30 p.m. via WebEx. The panel will discuss the importance of change in relation to different principles, preferences and roadblocks. Register on MyNNS.

MAY 11

Learn how to design a full-body exercise routine using correct form and techniques that you can do at home in 10 minutes or less. Attend the BeWell for Life webinar at noon or 4:30 p.m. to jumpstart your exercise routine. All fitness levels are encouraged to attend. Register at www.myquadmed.com/BeWell.

MAY 12

Join the Engineering & Design Change Agent Team from noon until 12:30 p.m. for a Virtual Learning Session (VLS) on CliftonStrengths Spotlight: Strengths Superpowers. You have your top five strengths, now what? Well, those strengths have the potential to be your greatest superpowers when you invest in them properly. We'll walk you through some ways you can move your strengths to a more mature form where you are using them to benefit others. Sign up on MyNNS. No charge is provided. For questions and concerns, email E&D Connections.

MAY 13

The Project Management Shipbuilder Association (PMSA) will host a lunchtime presentation on Earned Value Management with Brian Wolfe from 12 until 1 p.m. via WebEx. The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign up on the PMSA website on MyNNS. For questions, contact **Dennis Diones**, or email PMSA@hii-nns.com. No charge is provided.

MAY 13

The Asian Shipbuilders Including All Nationalities (ASIAN) employee resource group will host its annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. This year's focus will be on "The Asian American Experience." The virtual WebEx event will feature talks from fellow shipbuilders, discussion breakout rooms, trivia, history and exciting door prizes. Prizes include "Dinner on Julia!," executive mentorship sessions, YETI drinkware, and ASIAN swag. This event is open to all shipbuilders. To RSVP, email ASIAN_ERG@hii-nns.com or contact **Emmylou Mosley** (E33) at 688-1175 or via email.

MAY 15-16

The NNS 5K is now the BeWell for Life 5K. This year's event will be a virtual race held on the weekend of May 15 and 16. Interested employees and their friends and family members can register now through May 14 at quadmedical.redpodium.com/bewell-for-life-5k.

MAY 18 AND 19

Are you at risk for Type 2 diabetes? PreventT2 is a year-long, group support program designed to prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes for individuals with prediabetes or those at risk of developing diabetes. Led by a trained lifestyle coach, you will learn the skills needed to make lasting lifestyle changes, including losing weight, being physically active and managing stress. To learn more and to register for virtual sessions that begin May 18 and 19, visit www.myquadmed.com/hii/T2.

MAY 19

Looking to improve your finances? Sign up for SmartPath's budgeting webinar at noon to learn how to track your money and create an effective budget. Visit www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes to register.

MAY 19

Join Engineering & Design and the Project Management Shipbuilder Association (PMSA) from noon until 12:30 p.m. for a Virtual Learning Session (VLS) on PMSA. PMSA's mission is to introduce and maintain a companywide approach to project and program management by developing people and enhancing their project management skills in accordance with industry leading Project Management Institute (PMI) standards. Sign up on MyNNS. No charge is provided. For questions and concerns, email E&D Connections.

MAY 26

Join Engineering & Design and Heather Westmoreland from the iDS Communications Team from noon until 12:30 p.m. for a Virtual Learning Session (VLS) on Organizational Change Management (OCM). Every organization will, at some point undergo a transition or change. OCM is a framework for managing the effects of organizational change by helping stakeholders through the commitment curve, applying the five work stream toolkit and reducing fear and frustration. Sign up on MyNNS. No charge is provided. For questions and concerns, email E&D Connections.

JUNE 11

Join the Apprentice Athletic Club for the 16th annual F. Farrell Sanders Builder Backer Golf Classic at Ford's Colony Country Club. All proceeds benefit Builder athletics. The cost is \$85 per individual or \$340 per foursome. Entry fee includes green fee, carts, range balls, virtual scoring, lunch, and Builder Backer gift. Contact **Mark Tomlin** (O22) at 757-303-8947 to sign up through May 28. Check in 30 minutes prior to 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Go Builders!

JUNE 26

Newport News Shipbuilding and BayPort Credit Union are sponsoring the Peninsula Relay For Life Drive-Thru Luminaria Event from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. Luminarias will be lit to honor cancer survivors and caregivers or in remembrance of those lost to cancer. These flames burn during the event to serve as a reminder of the purpose of Relay for Life. Luminarias will be \$10 for one bag or \$25 for three bags. Visit www.RelayforLife.org/NNS to donate.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Engineer Electromechanical 4	4528	E70	Newport News
Engineer Lead Test 4	5676	E25	Newport News
Engineer Software 3	802	E44	Newport News
Engineer Systems Test 3	5828	E25	Newport News
HII-Mechanical Foreman (Machine Shop – 3rd Shift)	5422	N960	Newport News
HII-Mechanical Supervisor Test Inspection 1	5865	N960	Newport News
INTL Trade Compliance Analyst 4	4168	O17	Newport News
Web & Digital Media Developer 3	5833	N355	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use **MyHR** or the "**Current HII Employees Job Search**" button at www.buildyourcareer.com to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend for more information.

BLOOD DRIVES

Newport News Shipbuilding is hosting blood drives in support of the American Red Cross. A time charge will be provided for employees who donate. The Red Cross also will test all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service. Blood drives will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) on the following dates:

- May 6
- May 25
- June 3
- June 9

To schedule an appointment, contact **Natasha Eck** or **Sunny Lee** via email.