



Annual Report

Prepared By :

Shatavia Wafer
Dulce Gruwell
Suzy Hanna

www.skillpointalliance.org

2023

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Our Mission

To provide a gateway for individuals to transform their lives through rigorous skills-based training and education.

SKILLPOINT ALLIANCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our Vision

To create a hope and a future for every student we serve.

KEVIN BRACKMEYER

Chief Executive Officer



2023 was an amazing year for Skillpoint Alliance, and I am so proud of everything our staff and students have accomplished!

Our team spent countless hours working to replicate Skillpoint Alliance's programs in areas lacking workforce development training opportunities. Here in Central Texas, we expanded our pre-apprentice electrical program to Killeen and our certified production technician program to San Marcos. In West Texas, we expanded our partnership with Odessa College and established the organization's first pre-apprentice electrical evening class at its satellite campus in Pecos. We also partnered with Southeast New Mexico College to bring our pre-apprentice electrical program to Carlsbad, New Mexico.

As a result of our recent expansions, we have seen record-breaking enrollment numbers across all four of our programs— certified production technician, HVAC, pre-apprentice electrical and pre-apprentice plumbing. We had a graduation rate over 90%, with over 78% of our students finding employment within the first six weeks after graduation. We had a total of 68 certified production technician students, 64 HVAC students, 186 pre-apprentice electrical students and 12 pre-apprentice plumbing students.

As Austin continues to see rapid growth and major mobility and infrastructure projects take off, we expect the demand for skilled-trade workers to increase. As CEO of Skillpoint Alliance, I promise that we will be here to meet that demand. As we enter 2024, which marks Skillpoint Alliance's 30th anniversary, we are excited to see what is in store for the organization! Thank you for all of your continued support of not only the organization, but the thousands of Texans who have started their careers at Skillpoint Alliance.

Kevin Brackmeyer, CEO



Derrick Bonyuet-Lee
Treasurer
Finance Controller
for Dell

Lonny Stern
Secretary
Executive Director of
Movability

George Drazic
Board Chair Elect
Owner of Efficient AC,
Electric & Plumbing

Dave Greeley
Voting Board Member
Founder and Principal at
Team Orbis

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Chemical Facilities at Samsung
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Commercial Services

Michael Raiford
Voting Board Member
Independent Consultant at
Raiford, LLC

Alessandro Piovaccari
Voting Board Member
Adjunct Professor at
Lynceus

Dear Skillpoint Alliance Community,

Three hundred and thirty (330) students graduated from Skillpoint training programs in 2023, a staggering 72% increase over 2022. These students completed intensive, four-week courses that prepared them to begin their journey to well-paying careers as electricians, pipefitters/plumbers and HVAC technicians. Others graduated from Skillpoint's rigorous six-week certified production technician ("CPT") program, following which they were hired by manufacturers such as Samsung, Tesla and Toppan Photomasks.

A secret no more, in 2023 Skillpoint Alliance became well known among manufacturers associations, policymakers, and economic development organizations as a vital solution to the skilled worker shortage in Central Texas and in the Permian Basin. This would not have been possible without the outstanding instructors and talented professional staff employed by Skillpoint Alliance.

Skillpoint also boasts a Board of Directors consisting of community leaders, job training experts, and representatives from Austin-area manufacturers and mechanical contracting companies. Each Board member contributes financially to the organization, and many represent companies that hire Skillpoint graduates or help connect them to employers who do.

Many Skillpoint students face barriers to employment, including lack of transportation, unstable housing and quality childcare. Still, others are dealing with the effects of past trauma. Skillpoint staff members work tirelessly to help devise strategies to enable students to overcome these hardships. As a result, students graduate from Skillpoint training programs with a combination of job skills and life skills.

It is my privilege to serve as the Chair of Skillpoint's Board of Directors—a role that allows me to feel inspired each and every day by the great work of Skillpoint's compassionate and hardworking staff and by the resilient students who overcome so much in pursuit of a better life.

I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store for Skillpoint Alliance!

All the best,

Catherine Q. Morse, Skillpoint Alliance Board Chair
Attorney at Enoch Kever PLLC

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

Skillpoint Alliance embraces diversity by creating an inclusive learning experience where skills-based training and education empower individuals to transform their lives.

We promote equity by catering to all learning styles, navigating life barriers and connecting students to partner employers who believe and invest in our mission.

Through the deployment of diversity initiatives that support all, Skillpoint aims to foster an environment where students and staff can be their authentic selves and reach their full potential.



Core Values

Advocacy:

We teach and empower our students to advocate for themselves while we continuously pursue fresh avenues to maintain the affordability and accessibility of our programs for all community members.

Community:

Intentionally engaging with the community, we share knowledge, collaborate with local organizations, and deliver top-notch services, all aimed at enhancing the well-being of the community and ensuring that our impact is multi-generational.

Accountability:

Students, staff, and instructors collaboratively foster an open and inclusive atmosphere, prioritizing the collective benefit and holding one another accountable through words and actions.

Empathy:

Practicing empathy, we acknowledge that the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our staff, students, and community partners influence their outlooks, prompting us to embrace all viewpoints without judgment and to assume the best of intentions from one another.

Inclusion:

We cultivate respect and a sense of belonging for everyone by collaborating with staff, community members and employer partners to establish an environment that supports students from classroom to career.

Power of Choice:

Respecting our students' autonomy is important to us. We encourage self-discovery and support our students in making their own career choices.

Dignity:

We recognize the life experiences and hurdles of our students, assuring them that their past does not determine their future; we extend unwavering support and essential accommodations to nurture their growth. Confidentiality and trust are maintained in all our interactions with students.

**Upskilling:**

Creating a gateway to a better life by equipping students with the technical and employability skills they will need for life-long career growth and lasting success.

Our Team

Our team is comprised of exceptional individuals, each fulfilling a crucial role within our organization. From innovative thinkers driving our projects forward to meticulous administrators ensuring smooth operations, we are a diverse collective united by our passion for Skillpoint's mission. We are dedicated to providing our team with a sustainable work-life balance, recognizing that their well-being is essential for achieving our goals. By fostering an environment of trust and respect, we empower our team members to thrive in their roles and contribute their unique talents to our shared vision. Every member embodies our values of advocacy, inclusion and compassion, diligently ensuring that our students receive comprehensive support tailored to their needs. Together, we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



Kevin Brackmeyer

Chief Executive Officer



Leslie Puckett

Chief Operating Officer



Kara Hamman

Chief Financial Officer



Maria Cordero

Office Manager/
Bookkeeper



Shatavia Wafer

Quality Assurance &
Grants Manager



Dulce Gruwell

Partnerships Manager



Salena DiGaetano

Program Development
Curriculum Manager



Matthew Singer

Program Manager/
Electrical Instructor

Our Team



Lauren Bookatz

Admissions Team
Lead



Matthew Kappel

Admissions Coordinator
(South)



Suzy Hanna

Administrative Admissions
Assistant



Edwin Cheatham

Staff Assistant



Akeem Todd

Student Success
Team Lead



Shawn Cansler

Student Success
Coordinator (South)



Vanessa Fernandez

Student Employment
Coordinator



Jeff Jackson

HVAC/Plumbing Instructor



Julie Pitrof

CPT Instructor



Mark Murray

CPT Instructor

CENTRAL TEXAS

PERMIAN BASIN



Silvia Adams

Admissions
Manager



Dulce Bello

Admissions Coordinator
- Rural



Maria Luna Delgadillo

Student Success
Manager



Pilar Chapa

Student Success
Coordinator - Rural



Frankie Apodaca

Program Manager/
Electrical Instructor



Dr. Fred Ingersoll

Pecos and Fort Stockton
Electrical Instructor

Our Team

2023 Key Achievements

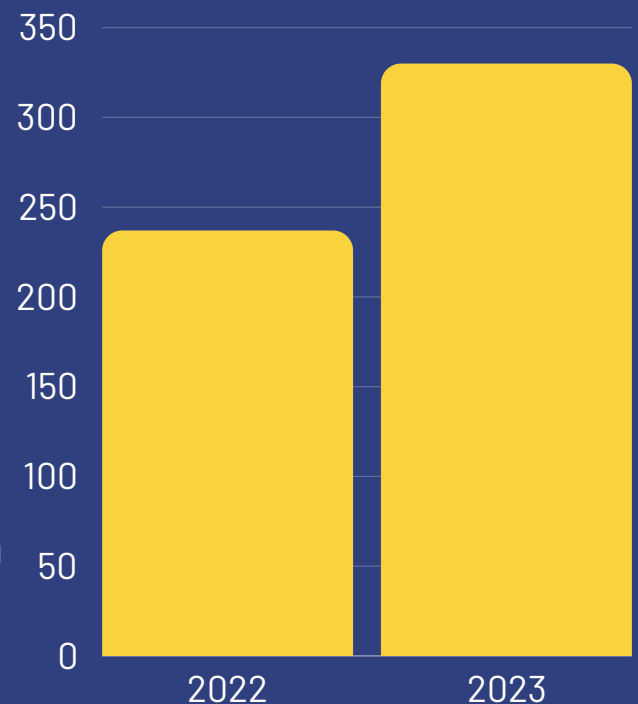
In 2023, 93% of Skillpoint Alliance students successfully completed our programs.

73% of our students obtained employment!

On average, a student's income increased by over 70% once they obtained post-graduation employment!



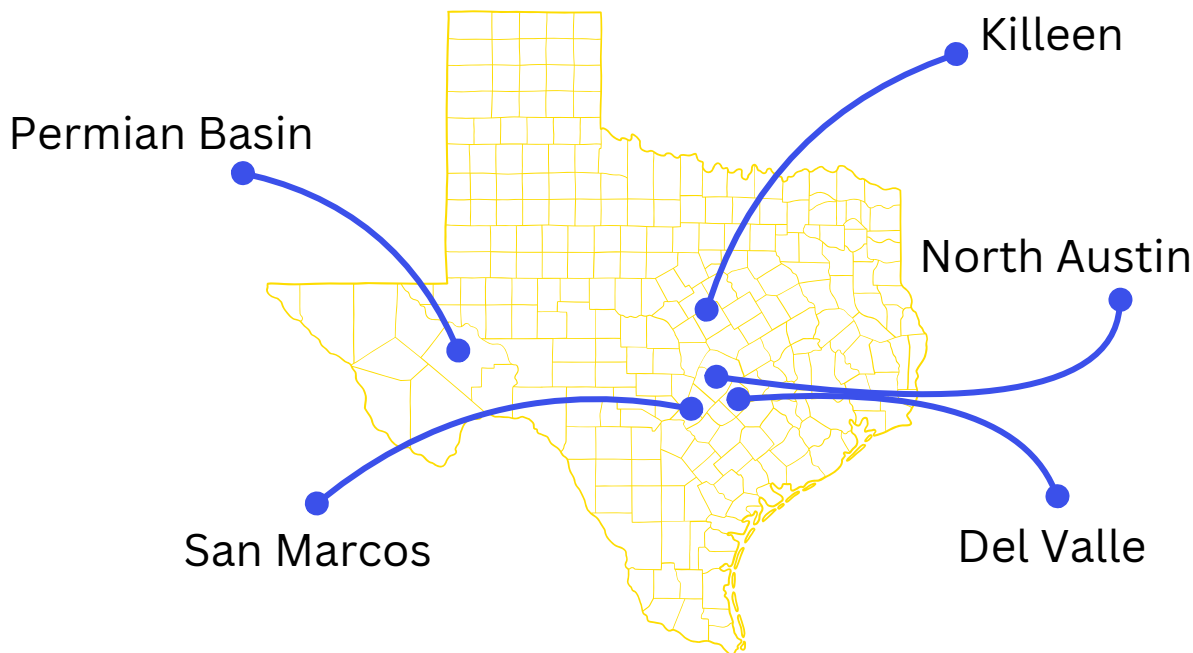
In 2023, Skillpoint served 330 students across all locations!



This is a 72% INCREASE from the 2022 program year!

EXPANSION

In 2023, Skillpoint Alliance experienced significant growth, expanding our staff and establishing additional locations in Central Texas and the Permian Basin area in West Texas and New Mexico.



Training Locations Expanded to:

Killeen, TX

Del Valle, TX

San Marcos, TX

Odessa, TX

Pecos, TX

Carlsbad, NM

JUSTICE-IMPACTED INITIATIVE

Skillpoint's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commitment describes it best: "Dignity: We recognize the life experiences and hurdles of our students, assuring them that their past does not determine their future; we extend unwavering support and essential accommodations to nurture their growth." Justice-impacted individuals have an opportunity to forge a new path to success through Skillpoint's skills-based training and employment support.

24% of the students served in 2023 were justice-impacted. This population had an 89% graduation rate and a 75% employment rate after program completion.

In 2022, Indeed awarded Skillpoint with a grant to provide transportation assistance and laptop computers to students. Following that program's success, Indeed approached Skillpoint in early 2023 to pilot a program to support students who have been impacted by the justice system, including arrests and incarceration. The pilot, which began in early 2023, provides financial stipends to justice-impacted students to help remove barriers to completing training and finding employment.

Over the past year, Skillpoint has used this funding to provide weekly stipends to justice-impacted students and helped them create their personal Indeed accounts for job searching. In 2023, Skillpoint served 21 students through the Indeed earn-and-learn program for justice-impacted manufacturing students, with a graduation rate of 70%. On average, these students earn \$18.48 per hour upon graduation.

For 2024, we hope to continue serving individuals who are preparing for re-entry and are ready to move forward and better their lives. We also look forward to partnering with other organizations that focus on serving this population to ensure their success back into the workforce.

Central Texas 
Program Highlights

Certified Production Technician (CPT)

Established in 2020, the manufacturing program at Skillpoint Alliance prepares students to earn their Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification. Students learn skills such as manufacturing safety, quality practices & measurement, manufacturing processes & production, maintenance awareness, programming 3D printers, programming CNC milling machines, Skillboss machine operation and soldering. Students will also earn their OSHA-10 Safety Certification, HAAS CNC Milling Certification, MSSC Certified Production Technician Certification and Lean Six Sigma White Belt Certification.

In 2023, 84% of the students enrolled in the CPT program successfully graduated, with almost 70% of those graduates gaining employment and earning an average starting wage of \$20.40/hr. Students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including Samsung Austin Semiconductor, Applied Materials, Caldwell Manufacturing, Corvac, and many more.



Spotlight on Success: Samantha Blackstone, San Marcos Manufacturing Graduate

Samantha, who graduated from our San Marcos CPT class in September of 2023, is a true example of turning your life around for the better.

For a while, Samantha was experiencing homelessness and became justice-involved. However, Samantha shared she "has turned a bad situation into a good one". In the past year, Samantha has accomplished many of the goals she set for herself, including securing housing for her family, saving money to buy her own vehicle and completing her GED program!

Samantha is now employed with Caldwell Manufacturing in a CNC milling position making \$18/hour. Samantha said, "I really like it, and I'm using everything I learned in class. I definitely wouldn't have liked the job if I hadn't gone to school at Skillpoint, because I am being challenged to do things that I learned in class."

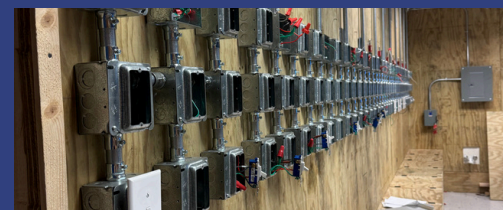
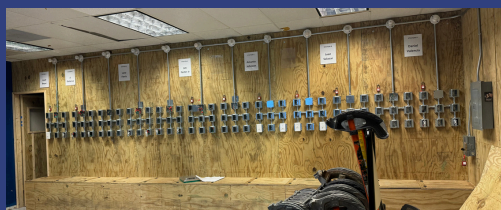
Pre-Apprentice Electrical

Skillpoint's Pre-Apprentice Electrical training program is a four-week class that prepares students for success as apprentice electricians. Students learn safety, wiring, conduit bending, and more in a hands-on-focused training model that includes direct industry engagement, OSHA-10, Greenlee hand-bending certification, and more.

In 2023, 97% of our pre-apprentice electrical students graduated from the program, with 86% gaining employment and earning an average starting wage of \$18.76/hr. In 2023, students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including Beckett Electrical Services, Weifield Group, and other companies associated with Centex IEC and IBEW Local 520.

Classroom Improvements

In 2023, we began renovating the existing electrical instruction space to better accommodate our training curriculum. Renovations included a lab containing wiring stations for electrical circuitry, device installation and motor controls. We have built a lab for conduit bending and installation practice, which is something that has been difficult to demonstrate in its entirety until now. Our training space now includes visual educational enhancements, proving to be quite beneficial for our students. We have also refreshed the state of the classroom with fresh finish work, paint, seating and storage. Finally, we are using an industry lockout-tagout system to ensure student safety on premise.



Community Collaboration on a Special Project

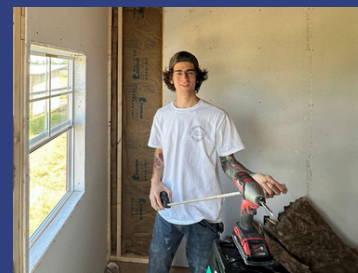
The Multicultural Refugee Coalition is a Central Texas-based nonprofit that operates two social enterprises: an urban farm and a textile manufacturing business. New Leaf Agriculture, a farm in Elgin, Texas, trains and employs refugee farmers, and Open Arms Studio, a textile manufacturing business, offers sewing training and employment for refugees, asylees and immigrants in Austin, Texas.

Leslie, a customer of New Leaf Agriculture's community-supported agriculture program, joined the board of directors in late 2022 to support its fundraising and growth efforts. During a spring 2023 MRC board meeting, Leslie learned that New Leaf Farm needed some significant electrical and carpentry upgrades to its cold storage facility and employee office space.

This much-needed work presented a mutually beneficial opportunity for New Leaf Farm and Skillpoint Alliance's electrical students, who always benefit from hands-on opportunities in class.

Leslie and Matt Singer, Skillpoint's electrical instructor/program manager, connected with the MRC CEO and New Leaf Farm manager to discuss the scope of work, budget and time frame. Matt guided several cohorts of electrical students through the spring and summer of 2023 to work on New Leaf Farm's projects.

The relationship between the MRC and Skillpoint Alliance continues, with the possibility of additional projects in the future.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Gregory and J.R. Grimes

While working as a handyman, Gregory found out about the Skillpoint Alliance pre-apprentice electrical program from his sister, who thought it would be a good opportunity for him to start a more stable career. After doing some research, he thought the program would be a great fit for him and his son, and they both enrolled in Skillpoint's pilot electrical class in Killeen, Texas in November 2023.

In December of 2023, the Grimes' received first and second place in the skills challenge, a showcase that is held at electrical graduations for students to show family, friends and employers what they have learned during their time with Skillpoint. A local employer, RK Bass, was in attendance for this showcase and was extremely impressed with the Grimes' skills. Both Gregory and J.R. were hired on by RK Bass and now work as apprentice electricians/laborers, getting to work on various projects within the company. The Grimes' expressed that "the skills learned at Skillpoint, such as wiring and conduit building, put us ahead of a lot of peers on job sites."



KILLEEN'S FIRST PRE-APPRENTICE ELECTRICAL CLASS

Special thanks to CenTex Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) for generously providing space to facilitate our training and fostering connections with employers during Lunch & Learn events. Notably, Killeen saw the graduation of eight pre-apprentice electrical students. Another class is slated to commence in Spring 2024.



HVAC TECHNICIAN

The HVAC Technician training program at Skillpoint offers graduates a wide variety of career options, all of them sustainable and leading to long-term stability.

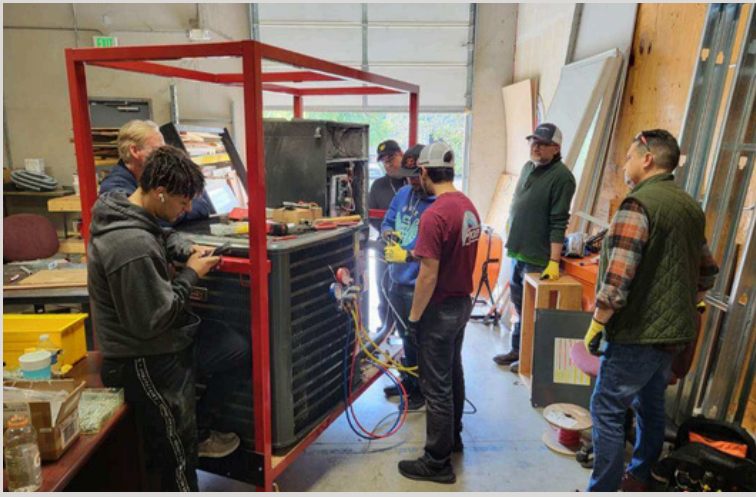
This five-week course focuses on safety, basic tools, construction math, A/C maintenance and troubleshooting, the refrigeration cycle, soldering and brazing of copper pipe, OSHA-10, NCCER, and more.

The class also prepares students for the EPA-608 universal exam, which certifies individuals to legally and safely handle refrigerant chemicals.

In 2023, 93% of enrolled students graduated from the program, with 80% obtaining employment and earning an average max starting wage of \$22.11/hr. In 2023, students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including Champion AC & Plumbing, SALT Plumbing, Air & Electric and Greystar.



Training Equipment Updates



Goettl Air Conditioning & Plumbing

We received a complete A/C system with 4/10 refrigerant as a donation, which provided additional hands-on experiences for students. They were taught how to do a complete install of a different system that had 4/10 refrigerant and received ample opportunities to apply their learning in practice. In the past, students only had opportunities to learn on R22 systems. With this complete A/C system with 4/10 refrigerant, students learned how to troubleshoot multiple common HVAC issues on the system and gained various problem-solving skills to use when they are in the field. During the installation, students learned and practiced braising the lines, pulling the vacuum and charging the system.

Johnstone Supply

Skillpoint received three condensing units as donations from Johnstone Supply. These additional units provided students with extra hands-on time with the machines. Students learned how to recover refrigerant and disassemble each unit to see how they are constructed and familiarized themselves with the machine's internal components.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

DANIEL HERNANDEZ



Prior to enrolling at Skillpoint, Daniel had previously worked in various construction roles, learning new skills only if the person he was working for was willing to teach him.

Daniel heard about Skillpoint Alliance and saw the opportunity to learn HVAC and get his EPA 608 Universal which would allow him to build a career. The motivation for Daniel was not only to create a better life for his wife and daughter, but to have the ability to provide for his mother and other family members who have supported him throughout his life.

Daniel was working to achieve his US citizenship (which he achieved while in our class) with the goal of becoming a sponsor for his mother and other family members. He wants to become an HVAC Technician and eventually start his own company which would provide stability and career opportunities for his family members.

Daniel earned his EPA 608 Universal license, OSHA-10 Safety certification, and NCCER core certification while enrolled at Skillpoint. He now works with MAA Property Management as a maintenance technician making \$24.00/hour.

PRE-APPRENTICE PLUMBING

The pre-apprentice plumbing program at Skillpoint Alliance is a four-week program that prepares students for success as apprentice plumbers.

In this course, students learn safety procedures, pipe recognition, pipe fitting, construction math, soldering, brazing and fixture layout. Upon graduating, our plumbing students will have earned their Texas Plumber's Apprentice license and OSHA10 certification.



In 2023, 100% of students enrolled graduated from the program, with 83% obtaining employment and earning an average starting wage of \$22.65/hr. In 2023, students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including AirCo Mechanical, Way Mechanical and Mustang Plumbing.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

JAMIL GARCIA

Before enrolling in Skillpoint, Jamil Garcia was a shift leader at P. Terry's. Jamil was hesitant to impose the burden of educational expenses on his family. Upon learning about the free programs offered by Skillpoint Alliance, Jamil decided to embark on a transformative journey that has led him to his career in plumbing. Overcoming initial challenges in the class, he embraced the hands-on learning experience and proved to be a skilled, quick learner.



Today, Jamil is an accomplished apprentice plumber at Mustang Plumbing. His dedication not only propels his professional growth, but also enriches his family life. With aspirations of homeownership on the horizon, Jamil exemplifies the remarkable impact of skill development and determination.

PERMIAN BASIN REGION HIGHLIGHTS



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the pre-apprentice electrical program in Permian Basin maintained a graduation rate of 93%, with 60% of program graduates obtaining employment. Students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including Corey Sly, Ratliff Electric and Freedoms Computer Cabling.



Night Class Pilot

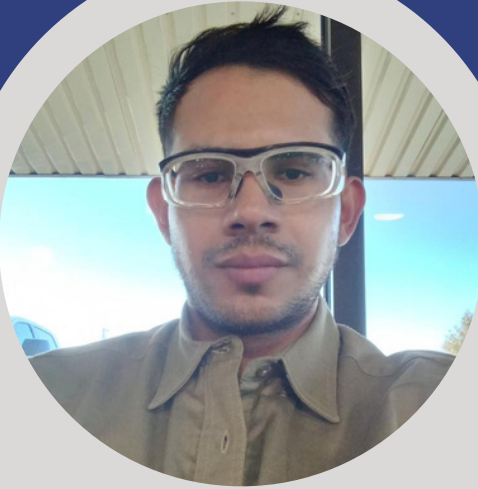
Last year, Skillpoint piloted its first evening training program in Pecos, Texas. This was a major need for community members who wanted to upskill and/or start a new career, but could not step away from their full-time jobs to accommodate our traditional rapid-training program schedule.



Approximately 80% of the individuals who enrolled in the Pecos program had a full-time job and expressed concerns about working in industries that can experience downturns like oil and gas. They wanted to gain skills and knowledge to transition to a more stable career path within the electrical industry and to secure higher-paying positions within their current jobs.

By offering flexibility in class timing, we increased participation and helped more individuals in achieving their educational goals. This has opened up avenues for lucrative opportunities and upward mobility, which is particularly important given the instability of sectors like oil and gas. These individuals are seeking job stability and long-term careers in a field with growing demand.

The night classes provided by Skillpoint Alliance play an important role in addressing the aspirations and concerns of individuals who are seeking to take advantage of opportunities for professional growth.



SANTIAGO MUNIZ

Spotlight on Student Success

Santiago Muniz is a 2023 graduate from the Permian Basin region. Prior to enrolling at Skillpoint, Santiago was a self-employed drywall finisher working on commercial and residential projects in the area. As a motivated, young individual with a strong desire for personal and professional advancement, Santiago found himself ready for a career change. After doing some research on different career and training opportunities, he found Skillpoint and decided to enroll in the pre-apprentice electrical program. Santiago had a limited foundation of knowledge with no prior experience in the field, but he had a desire to learn.

Santiago's experience at Skillpoint was nothing short of positive. He expressed that "the class was spectacularly taught by Professor Frankie Apodaca. I acquired the basic principles of electricity and the proper use of the most common tools, which I appreciated since we had a dedicated space (laboratory) for effective theoretical and practical exercises. The course covered key aspects of the NEC and NFPA 2023. I also appreciated the emphasis on safety, particularly in this line of work where safety comes first; all accidents can be prevented. The program exceeded its standard offerings, and I am grateful to the administrative staff at Skillpoint and the dedicated instructors for facilitating direct interactions with prominent employers in the industry." Santiago also expressed his profound gratitude to student success manager, Maria Luna Delgadillo, who "provided support and guidance" during his pursuit of job opportunities.

Santiago now works at Ingram Professional Services, Inc. as an electrical apprentice making \$22/hour.

HVAC TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Skillpoint is expanding its training offerings to include more skilled trades programs as part of Skillpoint's commitment to support Permian Basin communities' access to high-demand, well-paying career pathways. In 2023, Skillpoint added an HVAC Technician training program. This class is hosted at both Midland College and Odessa College's campuses.

Approximately 70% of students enrolled in 2023 HVAC programs gained employment, earning an average max wages of \$30.64. In 2023, students engaged with and went to work for numerous local employers, including Midland Independent School District and D&D Home Services.



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Crumel

Kenia Crumel is a 2023 graduate of Permian Basin's HVAC Technician program. Kenia was raised in Mexico and moved to the United States when she was 8 years old. Before enrolling at Skillpoint, she spent a few years working in the fast food industry, earning a max wage of \$12.50/hour. Kenia expressed that when she started class, her lack of knowledge about the industry made it difficult to learn, however, as time went on she quickly began to catch on to the new concepts and hands-on learning. She says, "The instructor found new ways to teach us because the majority of the people in the class were between the ages of 17 to 21 and had difficulty understanding the material.", which she says was a pivotal part of her success in the program. Kenia now works as an HVAC Technician with Renew Apartments in the Permian Basin making \$21/hour.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Elias Ahmed, Engineering Technician 2023 CPT Program Graduate



Before enrolling in Skillpoint, Elias had recently moved to the U.S., having spent only five months in this new environment. The process of obtaining all the necessary documentation to work and reside here took three months and during this time, Elias took up rideshare jobs to support his family.

As he explored job opportunities in the United States, Elias discovered Skillpoint, a program that piqued his interest. His experience as an Engineer in the manufacturing industry in his home country made this training particularly appealing, as it promised to equip him with American-recognized industry credentials.

However, Elias's journey was not without challenges. Amidst his pursuit of a better life, he faced a personal tragedy: the loss of his baby, during their journey to the States. In these difficult moments, Elliot expressed that "the Skillpoint team and peers helped [him] and supported [him] during this difficult time". Their encouragement and motivation gave him the confidence to persevere and continue on his career path.

The program's hands-on training and industry site visits provided Elias with a real-world glimpse of what the manufacturing field was like in the U.S. Equipped with the certifications he earned at Skillpoint, like the OSHA-10 and CPT certifications, Elias says that he gained a significant advantage over other applicants when applying for jobs. His hard work paid off, as he is now an engineering technician at Applied Materials, where he works with machines for semiconductor plants. Elias describes his role as "very dynamic and fulfilling."

As he continues to progress in his career, Elias looks forward to enhancing his technical knowledge and skills. His goal is to work upward into managerial roles within the manufacturing industry, a testament to his resilience, determination and unwavering commitment to growth.



JENNIFER COBB

2019 Electrical Program Graduate

Journeywoman Electrician - The FIRST at FSG!

Jennifer's life took an unexpected turn when she lost her receptionist job. Instead of dwelling on her situation, Jennifer saw this event as an opportunity rather than a misfortune. As soon as she left her then-employer, Jennifer got in her car and drove to Skillpoint Alliance to enroll in hopes of enrolling in the pre-apprentice Electrical program.

Jennifer's interest in the electrical field came from her brother, a seasoned journeyman electrician in Washington. She had witnessed firsthand the success her brother experienced as an electrician and knew that this was her chance to shift from working a "job" to starting a fulfilling career with long-term opportunities for growth.

Though this opportunity would be life-changing for Jennifer and her family, it did not come without its struggles. While attending class, Jennifer had to leave her two children at the time home alone so that she could attend training. While unemployed, Jennifer was still waiting for unemployment benefits, food stamps, and Medicaid. Having no source of income or assistance when she enrolled, she quickly fell behind on bills, was facing eviction, and constantly worried about how she was going to feed her children until she was employed again. Although this was a difficult time, Jennifer remained positive and steadfast in her decision to enroll in training.

Aside from her challenges, Jennifer also experienced success during her time in the electrical program. Jennifer expressed that utilizing hand and power tools were foreign to her, and her construction experience was nonexistent. Doubt gnawed at her confidence as she compared herself to her more seasoned peers. However, she caught on to the material and hands-on learning much faster than she thought she could and excelled during the program. By graduation, she had become the class's foreman, an achievement that filled her with pride. Her instructor and peers respected her leadership and work ethic.

After graduation, Jennifer quickly found work with local contractor, FSG, which she has been employed with for over four years. Jennifer is now a Journeywoman electrician and leads her own team at FSG. She is also studying to take the exam to become a Master Electrician. As she enters this next phase of her career, Jennifer hopes to "continue talking to people about joining the electrical trade."

Jennifer's story embodies the essence of Skillpoint: transformation, empowerment and the pursuit of a brighter future. She emerged not only as an electrician, but as a beacon of inspiration for others.

"As soon as I was finished with Skillpoint Alliance, I had multiple companies wanting to hire me," Andrew shared. Before becoming an apprentice electrician or enrolling in Skillpoint Alliance's Pre-Apprentice Electrical training program, Andrew worked in garage door maintenance with his uncle and lived with his parents. Despite sending out numerous job applications with no response, Andrew's luck changed when Centex IEC referred him to Skillpoint Alliance.

"I didn't have any prior electrical experience, so the skills I learned were extremely helpful," Andrew explained. "Classroom attendance, in particular, was a valuable skill that helped me secure a job." Today, Andrew is a third-year apprentice, specializing in residential work with Bowne Electric.

"Electrical work requires commitment; it's not just about the money," Andrew emphasized. "I love working with my hands, and I absolutely love my job." Since then, Andrew has moved into his own place, acquired a vehicle and enjoyed two vacations out of the state. Looking ahead, Andrew aspires to own land, build his own home and wire it himself. We are excited to see Andrew become a Journeyman and achieve his dreams.



ANDREW PULKRABEK

2021 Pre-Apprentice
Electrical Graduate

Third-year Apprentice
Electrician



KYLE MCGHEE

2023 Pre-Apprentice
Plumbing Graduate

Before enrolling in Skillpoint, Kyle was working in the restaurant industry. Seeking a fresh start and recognizing the high demand for trades, he decided to seek out training and found Skillpoint Alliance in his search. Despite facing challenges, such as being on felony probation, experiencing multiple overdoses and struggling with drug/alcohol addiction for the past 10 years, Kyle says Skillpoint Alliance has helped him "regain purpose in life and taught me to persevere through any situation." Kyle is currently in recovery, living in a sober environment and committed to maintaining this lifestyle. He was able to secure a job at Austin Yacht Club and is excelling thus far!

Second Annual Partner Luncheon

2023 Awards

Keystone Partner:
Greater San Marcos Partnership



Most Student Referrals:
Toppan Photomasks



Top Electrical Employer & Superhost:
Beckett Electrical Services



Top Manufacturing Employer:
Samsung Austin Semiconductor



On August 24, 2023, we held our second annual Partner Luncheon to recognize our Employer Partners who have hired from our cohorts and raise funds for future programs. The event was a success, generating proceeds that will directly support our students and supply needs. With these funds, we can continue expanding our mission to provide a gateway for individuals to transform their lives through rigorous skills-based training and education.

2023 Awards

Top HVAC Employer:
ABM Industries



Top Plumbing Employer:
Way Mechanical



Multi-Programs All-Star:
Champion AC & Plumbing



Top Volunteer:
TyRex Group

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Thank You To Our
Event Sponsors

IBEW LOCAL 520



Centex IEC



Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area



We look forward to our third annual
Partner Luncheon!

Save the Date: August 29, 2024

If you would like to be a sponsor for this
luncheon, please reach out to our
Partnerships Manager,
Dulce Gruwell at
dgruwell@skillpointalliance.org.

Platinum Plus: ABC Home and
Commercial Services



Platinum Plus: IBEW Local 520



Platinum Plus: IBEW Local 520



Platinum Plus: IBEW Local 520



Platinum: HEB Helping Here



EMPLOYER

Spotlight



www.photomask.com

TOPPAN PHOTOMASKS ROUND ROCK, INC.

Toppan Photomasks holds the prestigious award for the highest number of student referrals and having employed 17 Skillpoint Alliance students in 2023. This company serves as a shining example of an exceptional partnership.

“Advanced manufacturing provides meaningful and abundant opportunities. Our company directly employs those who wish to enter this dynamic industry. As one of our workforce development partners, Skillpoint thoroughly prepares those with the skills, interest, and desire to start and flourish in advanced manufacturing careers.” - Kyle Swartz, Senior U.S. Human Resources Manager at Toppan Photomask

At Skillpoint Alliance, our commitment lies in providing students with the essential support and expertise necessary for their success. Through visits to Toppan, students are given the opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to the intricacies of the work.



Be on the Lookout!

Important Dates Ahead

April 25, 2024: We commemorate our 30th anniversary!

June 24 - July 16, 2024:
Skillpoint Alliance is thrilled to announce the expansion of our Manufacturing - Certified Production Training to New Braunfels, TX.

August 29, 2024: Mark your calendars for the third annual Partner Luncheon.

Skillpoint is enhancing its Manufacturing Technician Program (CPT+) curriculum:

Additional study guides have been incorporated to support students in continuing their learning beyond class hours. Additionally, Skillpoint will utilize the new Haas CNC machine for in-house comprehensive training by instructors, helping students deepen their understanding and acquire the knowledge and skills required for basic CNC machine operation.

Electrical Lab Reveal - Austin: In 2024, Skillpoint's electrical instructor, with the help of several electrical classes, will be completing the Skillpoint Alliance electrical lab. This lab will consist of 15 wiring test stations where students will install outlets and a variety of switches to control output. Conduit bending is a necessary skill for electricians and Skillpoint will now have a space where students can be challenged by fabricating a variety of raceways. Motor control is an advanced topic with students and the new Amatrol Motor Control lab will allow students to troubleshoot a variety of problems and better illustrate programming logic. Finally, the new space will help students connect electrical theory with practical application.

Additional HVAC and Electrical Training Sessions: Due to the rise in applications and waiting lists, we are committed to expanding our class offerings to accommodate the demand.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

&

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THANK YOU! LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Home Office:

8868 Research Blvd #505,
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 323-6773



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Creating hope and a future
for every student we serve.