



WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

Shaun Cranny WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers: Report 2024



PPTEU
PLUMBING AND
PIPE TRADES
EMPLOYEES UNION



Founded 1889

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Introduction

This report outlines the activities related to the World Plumbing Council Scholarship during the Instructor Training Program (ITP) held by the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It also covers the additional opportunities that arose from my trip to the United States, including engagements with the United Association, IAPMO, and other stakeholders, between August 4th and August 20th, 2024.



World Plumbing Council

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) is an international organisation dedicated to enhancing the image and professional standards of the plumbing industry worldwide. It promotes industry training, technologies, and training systems across countries. The WPC also contributes to addressing global health, environmental sustainability, and water efficiency, benefiting communities around the world.

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program (ITP) Scholarship

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship is provided to Trainers, Teachers or Instructors of plumbing, fire protection or HVAC in August each year in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. The mission of the UA Education and Training is to equip United Association local Union members with educational resources for developing the skills of their apprentices and journeymen and women. By facilitating the training needs of the membership, it maximizes their employability and prepare them for changes in the industry and meet both the contractors and the end user's needs. UA is also committed to making training opportunities available across North America, allowing members to acquire new skills and remain competitive in the industry regardless of geography. In this way, it is determined to meet the needs of the piping industry and enhance employment opportunities through different ways among them the annual Instructor Training Program (ITP)

Let me Introduce myself – Shaun Cranny

I completed high school with a passion for sports, particularly cricket, which is Australia's national summer sport. This interest led me to pursue a career in turf management, where I focused on maintaining sports fields and golf courses. I completed an apprenticeship in this field and later sought opportunities to travel.

I eventually found myself working with the ground staff team at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club in Wimbledon, where the Championships are held. During my time there, I transitioned into a training role, where I enjoyed sharing my knowledge with students and apprentices. I discovered a passion for both education and the ongoing construction projects at a facility like Wimbledon. Coming from a family where my brother is a plumber, I realised that plumbing might be my future path when I returned to Australia.

Upon my return, I was fortunate to secure an apprenticeship in plumbing and gas fitting in 2003. Since then, I've worked on numerous significant projects that have positively impacted the community, including hospitals, cancer research laboratories, sports stadiums, and convention centres. Throughout my career, I've received invaluable training and mentorship from my peers, as well as support from my fellow members of the Plumbers Union in Victoria, Australia.

After nearly 20 years, primarily in HVAC, an opportunity arose to give back through training other plumbers and apprentices. I've always had a strong interest in safety, so moving into apprentice and post-trade safety training has been both fulfilling and rewarding. To me, getting the job done is important, but ensuring everyone gets home safely is even more so. My role at CEPUTEC/PICAC and the Plumbers Union allows me to help others understand the value of safety, which has become my guiding principle.

I am truly grateful to the WPC and the UA for this incredible opportunity.

Regards,

Shaun Cranny

Itinerary

August 4th, 2024

Depart Melbourne, Australia with Australian Delegation who attend ITP as part PPTEU and UA affiliation and training partnership. Arrive Los Angeles same day.

August 5th, 2024

Meet with LA Local District 16 Business Managers to tour their offices, discuss operations, and explore training opportunities. Additionally, meet with P.I.P.E. management and officials to learn about their role in supporting California's skilled pipe trades workforce.

August 6th, 2024

Morning visit Training Centre Visit to Local 250 LA, El Monte UA Training Centre. Today, we had the privilege of visiting the brand-new training centre in El Monte with the Australian delegation, alongside an executive team from IAPMO and representatives from District 16, California UA. The facility was truly impressive, covering all aspects of plumbing and pipe trades training. It featured dozens of welding bays and had a strong emphasis on water conservation and management, as well as a dedicated focus on medical gas training. It was a pleasure to tour the centre and discuss training techniques with Preston Riehl, CEO, and his team.

In the afternoon, we visited the La Kretz Innovation Campus & Laboratories in downtown LA. We were given a tour of the facility and received a briefing on its mission and operations from Amir Tabakh of the City of Los Angeles and the LA Department of Water & Power. The La Kretz Innovation Campus (LKIC), managed by the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to helping cleantech companies develop market-ready solutions, driving economic growth, and creating jobs in Los Angeles. This collaboration plays a crucial role in advancing the city's and LADWP's goals of achieving a clean energy future and expanding local water supplies.

The fully renovated property, originally a 60,000 square foot furniture and fabric warehouse purchased by LADWP in 2010, has been transformed into a LEED Platinum Certified building. It now features cutting-edge green technology, including a 175-kilowatt photovoltaic solar canopy, a microgrid system, fast-charging EV stations, two bioswales, and the first public greywater filtration system.

The La Kretz Innovation Campus offers a range of amenities, such as LADWP's Customer Engagement and Sustainable Living Labs, which include a Case Study Home—a hands-on

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

simulated environment for testing smart home and energy-efficient technologies. Additionally, the campus includes collaborative workspaces, an advanced prototyping centre (with 3D printing, laser workshops, electronics, robotics, and chemistry labs), a training centre, an amphitheater, and event spaces.

To top off the day, I was fortunate to attend an LA Dodgers game. A special thanks to District 16 California and Ignacio (Iggy) Contreras from IAPMO for organising such an incredible experience.



Dodger Stadium Los Angeles California.



Local 250 LA, El Monte UA Training Centre. Bariatric W/C & Medical Gas Training Module.

August 7th, 2024

Visit JATC HVACR TRAINING CENTRE San Dimas, California. As an HVAC plumber from Australia, it was fantastic to tour such an impressive and innovative facility. Johnny Monroy, the Director of Training, was exceptional in guiding us through their training methods and delivery approach at San Dimas. This facility focuses on all aspects of HVAC, and it was particularly interesting to learn about their emphasis on rebuilding major equipment like boilers and chillers. Johnny and his team explained that due to certain building techniques in the USA, rebuilding is often more practical than replacing, given the challenges of access. In Australia, we typically don't face the same constraints, so outright replacement is more common. It was insightful to see the different HVAC training methods used in California.

Additionally, the training centre features a wonderful museum of industry artifacts at the entrance, which was a great way to connect with the rich history of our trade.



JATC HVACR TRAINING CENTRE San Dimas, California

August 8th, 2024

IAPMO Tour Ontario California.

Today, we visited IAPMO Headquarters, both East and West locations. We began with a tour of their lab and testing facility, led by Ken Wijaya, EVP of R&T Laboratory. He guided us through the comprehensive work and data collection conducted there. IAPMO's in-house engineers and technicians are highly skilled in various testing procedures, including mechanical, chemical, pneumatic, electrical, automation, and machining. Their equipment specialists are experts in building and customizing test equipment to meet specific needs. The IAPMO R&T Lab operates around the clock, ensuring continuous testing. With over 80 years of IAPMO experience, the lab is a trusted resource for independent testing, research, and technical services across the plumbing, mechanical, water chemistry, and filtration industries.

We also learned about IAPMO's Water Systems Certification Program, which offers confidence to regulators, inspectors, manufacturers, distributors, installers, engineers, and the public that products are rigorously tested and certified to meet the applicable standards.

In the afternoon, we visited IAPMO World Headquarters, where we discussed their vision and training programs aimed at improving water access and quality, especially for underserved communities. Their efforts to enhance plumbing and sanitation for both developed and developing regions were inspiring. We also had the opportunity to tour the training and upskilling department, which was truly impressive.

A big thank you to Dave Viola, Gaby Davis, and Heather Koffman from IAPMO for providing such an informative and enriching experience at their headquarters.



WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

August 9th, 2024

Free day. I was lucky enough to be able catch up with a couple of the guys from District 16 UA California for lunch in Santa Monica. Great to be able to connect with these guys again.

August 10th, 2024

Travel Day: Los Angeles, California to Detroit, Michigan. Car transfer from Airport to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attend ITP at Washtenaw Community College.

August 11th, 2024

First Day of ITP at Washtenaw Community College. Class begins at 8am. The first class I attended was UAT 294A.4009.01 Methods in Teaching Plumbing Service, Maintenance, and Repair 2024.

I was warmly welcomed by my group with the national anthems of the USA, Canada, and Australia as we began the training experience. After introductions from the instructors and my fellow classmates, the training kicked off. I found it incredibly helpful to use the online system to map out the day's schedule (outlined below), and I thought it was a great initiative to have access to the resources to refer back to later.

Day 1

- Page

[Star Spangled Banner lyrics vocals and beautiful photos](#)

- Page

[O Canada](#)

- Page

[Australian Anthem](#)

- Attachment

[Intro 24.pptx](#)

- Assignment

[4009 Final Project](#)

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WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

- Attachment

[How to Implement Service PP](#)

- Attachment

[UA Service Curriculum.pdf](#)

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[UA Plumbing Service Curriculum](#)

- Attachment

[Plumbing Service Tools](#)

- Attachment

[ASSE Study Guide](#)

- Attachment

[Service PP](#)

- Attachment

[Customer Service PP](#)

- Attachment
[Creating A PP.docx](#)

The day was great, with a good balance of theory in the morning and practical activities in the afternoon—something I will incorporate into my own training techniques. In the evening, I was fortunate to be invited to California Night at Eagle Crest Golf Club in Ann Arbor. It was a fantastic evening, highlighted by an impressive ice sculpture of a WC!

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers



Annual UA Block Party 2024.

August 12th, 2024

Day 2 ITP. Another big day today! We began with a session on customer service—something I haven't really encountered much in my plumbing background. I found it surprisingly interesting and appreciated the insights into best practices. The trainers, who are also business owners and operators, provided an excellent overview of their customer service models and shared what they expect from their staff in terms of interactions with end users and consumers.

We were fortunate to attend a presentation by Kohler Plumbing Products, where they briefed us on their training methods, product development, and their focus on educating both plumbers and consumers about their technologies.

Later in the day, we heard from a guest speaker from a drain lining company who showcased some cutting-edge technology in drain relining. It was refreshing to see the innovative engagement and training techniques they use to ensure best practices for contractors, plumbers, and consumers alike.

In the afternoon, we participated in a practical session involving copper piping. This team-building exercise was designed to foster stronger relationships within the group. While my team didn't win, it was a great experience working alongside fellow brothers and sisters in the room.

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

This evening, I had the privilege of attending the Annual **UA Block Party** in downtown Ann Arbor on Main Street between Liberty and William Street. As part of the program, I was honoured to have dinner with UA President Mark McManus, the UA executive team, my own PPTEU President Glenn Menzies, and WPC Executive Board Member Tom Bigley. I felt incredibly privileged to share a meal with such esteemed industry leaders, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to them for the opportunity.

August 13th, 2024

Day 3 ITP. Today's focus was on domestic water heaters, with Bradford White Water Heaters leading the session. The company, based in Middleville, Michigan, is a key player in the water heater and space heating industry, serving homes and businesses globally. Their 95+ acre campus features high-tech robotics, multiple assembly lines, an advanced research & development lab, and a state-of-the-art distribution centre. We also visited Bradford White's International Technical Excellence Centre (iTEC™), a LEED Gold-certified training centre located next to the manufacturing plant.

The session began with an overview of the company's commitment to both consumers and its staff. There was a focus on evolving technologies, upskilling employees, and training plumbers who install their products. Bradford White also shared insights into the wide range of water heaters they manufacture and their benefits for both installers and consumers. Given Australia's temperate climate, we don't typically face the same challenges as North Americans. For example, most of our water heaters are located outside the home, as our winters are not as harsh.

Next, we participated in a practical session on the Bradford White ICON System®, which features intelligent gas control with millivolt-powered technology and a built-in piezo igniter. This system uses a standard thermopile to convert heat energy from the pilot flame into electrical energy, eliminating the need for external electricity. The ICON System® provides enhanced performance, better temperature control, and intelligent diagnostics via a multicolored LED light to indicate operation status and service needs. We also had a Q&A on anode changes and troubleshooting tips for common issues.

In the afternoon, we moved to the workshop for hands-on servicing and problem-solving with various Bradford White water heaters. It was a great collaborative session where we worked together to identify and resolve common issues. A big shout-out to Bradford White for such an informative and enjoyable day—there were plenty of valuable tips on training and assessment.

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

Later, I was fortunate enough to attend Michigan Night at UA Local 190 in Ann Arbor. It was a fantastic evening, and I'm grateful to the Local 190 crew for the warm welcome. It was a pleasure meeting the brothers and sisters of Local 190!



Michigan Night at UA Local 190 Ann Arbor!

August 14th, 2024

Day 4 ITP, Industry Day. The mission of the UA Education and Training Department is to provide United Association locals with the educational resources needed to develop the skills of apprentices and journey workers. By addressing the training needs of the membership, we enhance their employability and prepare them for industry changes. We are committed to offering training opportunities across North America, enabling members to acquire new skills and stay competitive regardless of location. In doing so, we meet the needs of the piping industry and improve employment opportunities for our members, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the fund's beneficiaries.

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

As mentioned in today's presentation, the UA mantra is to provide the most skilled tradespeople to meet contractors' needs and deliver the best outcomes for the end user. It was inspiring to hear how contractors and the UA work together to create an environment that allows both sides to thrive. I was also honoured to receive a plaque recognising my scholarship through The World Plumbing Council, presented by WPC Executive Tom Bigley, General President of the UA Mark McManus, and Raymond Boyd, Director of Education and Training for the UA. I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved; it's an experience I will always cherish.

Additionally, I was fortunate to attend the contractor's lunch, where I learned about the significant investments being made in the USA to support the growth of plumbing skills. Through intelligent investments and forward-thinking programs, the trade is being future-proofed. This progress is being driven by good governance, strong partnerships with contractors, and the United Association.



WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

August 15th, 2024

Day 5 ITP. Today's focus was primarily on ASSE accreditation and the study process behind it. For over 115 years, ASSE International has been uniting the industry to improve the performance and reliability of both products and professionals. Through collaboration, we aim to protect public health and safety.

ASSE International is an ANSI-accredited standards developer and ANAB-accredited product certification body, consisting of members representing all areas of the plumbing and mechanical industries. ASSE's product performance standards, professional qualifications standards, and certification programs strive to enhance the performance and safety of plumbing and mechanical systems.

After nearly 120 years of advocating for standardised plumbing practices, over 50 years of certifying products, and more than 25 years of certifying qualified personnel, the ASSE mark is proudly displayed by members, manufacturers, workers, and employers across North America.

The ASSE International Chapter of IAPMO considers its trademarks and service marks some of its most valuable intellectual property assets and takes consistent action to preserve and protect its exclusive rights to use them.

The afternoon included the graduation ceremony, which was a great moment to celebrate the achievements of the graduates and apprentices after all their hard work throughout the week. On a personal note, it was wonderful to see the Australian competitors, James Rigas (Sprinkler Fitting) and Sam Barnes (Plumbing), recognised during the ceremony. Well done, guys – a fantastic achievement!



WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

August 16th, 2024

Travel Day- Ann Arbor, Michigan to Chicago, Illinois.

August 17th, 2024

Visit Training Centre Local Chicago 597. Today I was lucky enough to visit Local 597 Chicago Training Centre. Chicago has played an instrumental role in the development of the piping industry since the inception of unions. Local 597 has indeed fought to keep America's standard of living one of the highest in the world, through fair wages, reasonable working hours, and the safest possible working conditions for its members.

A great experience here where Australia has had some input with a focus towards water conservation and drought proofing technologies a focus of 597. The workshop and training rooms were second to none as expected and are a credit to the organisation.

Big thanks to Christopher Hernandez from 597 for hosting me.



597 Training Centre in Chicago, Mobile Training Unit.

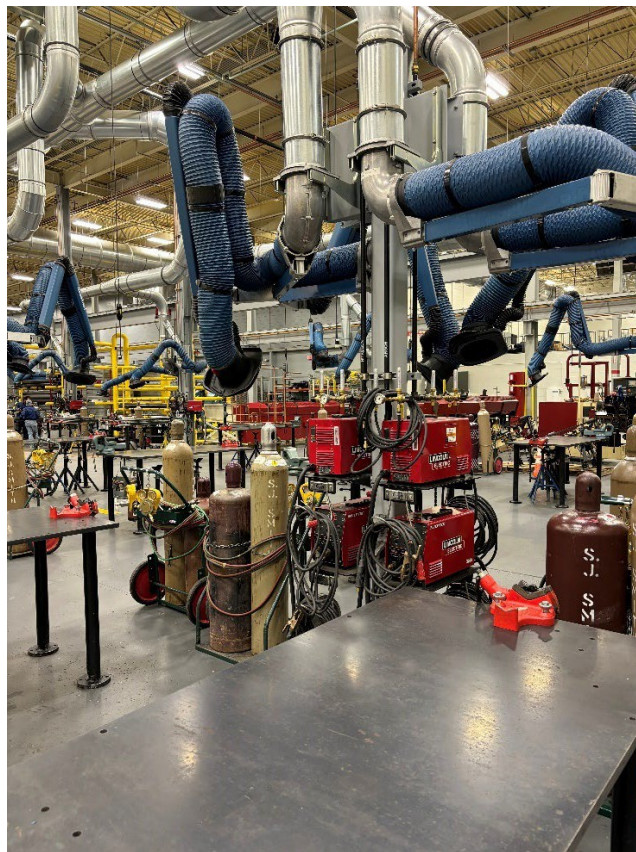
WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

August 18th, 2024

Free Day, I spent most of the day enjoying the sights and all there is to do in Chicago.

Chicago, on Lake Michigan in Illinois, is among the largest cities in the U.S. Famed for its bold architecture, it has a skyline punctuated by skyscrapers such as the iconic John Hancock Centre, 1,451-ft. Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) and the neo-Gothic Tribune Tower. The city is also renowned for its museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago with its noted Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works.

Later that evening I had the pleasure of having dinner with Bill Hite Former General President of the UA. The Australian Delegation invited me along which was a pleasure to meet Bill and his family.



597 Training Centre in Chicago Welding Facilities.

August 19th, 2024

Visit Local 130 Chicago Training Centre. About Local 130 UA

Today, I had the privilege of visiting The Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130 UA. With over 6,100 members, it stands as one of the largest straight-line plumbing locals in the United Association (UA), which represents more than 350,000 building tradesmen across the United States and Canada. The strength of Local 130 lies in the quality of its members, its size, and the loyalty we share, making it a respected and influential voice in both the construction piping industry and the broader community.

History of Local 130 UA

For over 120 years, Local 130 has been committed to safeguarding the health of Chicago and its surrounding communities by providing the highest quality plumbing professionals through rigorous, certified education and job placement. Clean water and effective wastewater management are essential to the health and wellbeing of society.

Members of Local 130 have been integral to some of the most significant public and private construction projects in Chicagoland. From the monumental reversal of the Chicago River and the Deep Tunnel project, which greatly improved water quality, to the construction of the iconic Chicago skyline, Local 130 has been crucial in providing the skilled workforce needed to build and maintain this vibrant city and its suburbs.

Local 130 specialises in:

- Commercial Construction
- Residential and Commercial Plumbing Installation
- Domestic Water Piping
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Green Technology
- Residential Service
- Repair and Remodelling
- Underground Utilities
- Vacuum Piping and Systems
- Sanitary Waste and Vent Systems

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

- Wastewater Treatment
- Backflow Prevention Programs
- Water Main Distribution Systems

It was great to visit this historic downtown union, which reminded me a lot of the Local I work with in Brunswick, Victoria, Australia. The focus on welding, water conservation, and general plumbing is impressive, and the state-of-the-art facility and training centre are a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the Local. Big thanks to James Coyne, Business Manager of Local 130, and your team for the warm welcome and hospitality.



Local 130 Chicago Training Centre. Inside and outside!

August 20th, 2024

Travel Day- Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles, California.

Back in LA for a couple of days of downtime to enjoy the sunshine.

WPC United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship for Trainers

What an incredible experience—so much valuable information and so many amazing people along the way! I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this trip possible. First and foremost, a huge thank you to The World Plumbing Council (Dave, Gaby, Heather, Leticia, and Tom) and the entire executive team for enabling this scholarship. Your support has given me an experience I will never forget.

A special thanks to The United Association of the USA for welcoming me to the ITP program and providing me the opportunity to bring back my learnings to contribute to training in my country. I am truly fortunate.

IAPMO, thank you for the opportunity to tour your facility. It was a privilege to see and learn about the vital role you play in plumbing and water conservation worldwide.

To District 16 UA California, you're the best! Big thanks to Rodney Cobos, Business Manager/Financial Secretary; John Ferruccio, Director of Organizing; Doug Wilson, Director of Plumbing Services; Doug Marian, Assistant Business Manager; Jerry Trevino, Director of HVACR; and Jerry Elliott, Director of Jurisdiction. Your support and hospitality in LA and throughout California will not be forgotten. Cheers, guys!

Finally, a big shout-out to the Australian Delegation to the USA for their support throughout the journey. Thanks to Glenn Menzies, President of PPTEU; Theo Samartzopoulos, NSW State Secretary PPTEU; Norm Anderson, President of Master Plumbers Australia; John Haitas, Business Manager/Organiser PPTEU Western Suburbs Victoria; and Craig Halliday, Compliance Manager at PICAC. Thanks for making this trip a memorable one, lads!

