

## **Ironworkers Graduate from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana**

Ironworker apprentices in Indiana have been graduating from their apprenticeship programs with associate degrees for a number of years. In 2006 General President Hunt signed an agreement with Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana making it possible for apprentices from across the country to obtain their associate degrees. This agreement outlined a partnership to enable the delivery of an Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) to apprentices enrolled in local union apprenticeship programs certified under the Ironworker Apprenticeship Certification Program (IACP).

Apprentices are able to enroll with Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and receive college credit for their apprenticeship courses. While completing their apprenticeship program, apprentices can go online to complete five required courses. Upon completion of these courses and their apprenticeship program, apprentices will receive their associate degree. This degree program is designed so that students can complete their degree and never leave their home town.

IMPACT and the National Training Fund, in an effort to encourage interested Ironworkers to pursue their degrees, have been working closely with three locals this past year. Three outstanding apprentices have completed their associate degrees and are graduating this year. We would like to tell you something about these three young men.

### **Adam Becker – Local 373**

Adam Becker completed his Ironworker Apprenticeship in 2005. He is a member of Ironworker Local No. 373 Perth Amboy, New Jersey. During Adam's apprenticeship, he experienced all facets of the ironworking trade, but by his own admission, prefers structural and using his welding skills.

Adam is a member of the Army Reserves since 1996 and is currently assigned to the 430<sup>th</sup> Military Police Law and Order Detachment of Red Bank, New Jersey. Between work and the reserves, Adam has found the time to complete his Associate's Degree at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Presently he is enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program, at the George Meany Campus, National Labor College. Recognizing the opportunity afforded him by being an Ironworker, and getting a college degree through his apprenticeship experience, Adam feels he has a responsibility to give back to the industry that made it possible.

### **Chris Tobiasson – Local 387**

Chris Tobiasson came to the Ironworkers from the fabrication industry where his career began at age 20. After a year and a half of work slowing down and finally getting laid off, Chris and a friend started their own business, traveling the country doing steel fabrication and installation. The problem now was that Chris had no benefits and was never at home to see his wife. Chris knew that there had to be something better for him and his family, but he enjoyed what he was doing.

In the spring of 2004 Chris came to the Ironworkers and after an interview was offered a job with one of our signatory contractors. Chris, even with all of his experience, came into the apprenticeship program as a first period apprentice. From his first day on the job, Chris has been an inspiration to all that he has worked with. Taking advantage of every certification possible with Local 387's J.A.C., Chris has excelled and is the first apprentice to achieve an Associate of Applied Science. Now that Chris has Topped Out as a Journeyman Ironworker, he is next in line to be a foreman for his employer.

### **Anthony Ciaccio – Local 405**

Local 405 member Anthony Ciaccio is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year apprentice who will be completing his apprenticeship in June 2007. Anthony has excelled through his

apprenticeship by being aggressive with both school and on the job, becoming an asset to the reinforcing area of the ironworking industry.

Anthony graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. in 1999 with a Bachelors degree in Human Movement. He will receive his Associate Degree from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana during the summer of 2007.

Anthony has also attained his Real Estate license from the state of Pennsylvania in 2004 and sells real estate throughout the Philadelphia area along with his wife. Anthony is married with one child. He and his wife recently welcomed the birth of their daughter into their family.

Anthony's reinforcing ironworker career goals are to become a foreman with one of the many area companies, and in the future to become an instructor in Local 405's apprenticeship program.

For more information on the degree programs with Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and the National Labor College, go to [www.ironworkers.org](http://www.ironworkers.org) and click on the Apprenticeship and Training Department. Then click on "Ironworker College Credit Programs".

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**Photo Captions:**

#1 – (L to R): Ron Repmann, Training Director for the District Council of Northern New Jersey and Adam Becker

#2 – (L to R): Dan Bearden, Apprenticeship Coordinator for Local 387 and Chris Tobiasson

#3 – (L to R): Ed Penna, Training Director for Locals 405 and 846; Anthony Ciaccio; Al Fratalli, Local 405 Business Manager; Sam Malone, Local 405 Business Agent and President