



## National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Electrical Industry

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### **The Training Programs of the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Electrical Industry receive a 650 Thousand Dollar, Five-year Donation from Westex**

***The “Westex 650 Thousand Dollar” program establishes the company  
as an NJATC Platinum Level Training Partner***

**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – The National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Electrical Industry (NJATC) has entered into agreement with Westex, the industry leader in the manufacturing of flame resistant/ arc rated fabrics, to create the *Westex Personal Protective Equipment Academy* program to train the next generation of union electrical workers. Over the next five years, Westex will donate \$650,000 in cash, product and training support, to enhance the IBEW/NECA training efforts by adding state-of-the-art learning technology to the classroom.

The NJATC is a nonprofit organization founded by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to develop and standardize education in the electrical industry. The national Westex 650 Thousand Dollar program establishes Westex as an NJATC “Platinum Level” training partner and demonstrates its commitment to NJATC and IBEW-NECA training programs.

Westex’s \$650,000 will add programs, resources and scholarships to NJATC curriculum, including:

- **Westex Personal Protective Equipment Academy**, a new educational component that adds dynamic online training to the traditional mix of book learning, classroom and lab experience, creating a rich, blended learning model. The *Westex Personal Protective Equipment Academy* will become mandatory safety training for all IBEW apprentices who earn credit for the NJATC Personal Protective Equipment Course, as well as all students who receive training under the umbrella of the IBEW Construction Wireman (CW) and Construction Electrician (CE) classifications. “This virtual academy will include subjects such as proper selection and deployment of a worker’s personal protective equipment and clothing. Aid in the creation of an interactive personal protective equipment (PPE) selection module to bolt on to support existing PPE Simulations, support the development of an Incident Energy Analysis Calculations Activity, and develop an interactive Hazard/Risk Categories activity. The learning modules will be created in a fashion which will allow them to be utilized at multiple stages of a student’s learning,” said Marty Riesberg the Director of Curriculum Development for the NJATC.
- **Westex product endowments for local JATC classrooms** will allow students to train with the “best-in-class” PPE components, developed by Westex and the increased uniformity of products in the classroom that will in turn help instructors teach more efficiently.
- **Westex NTI Outstanding Graduate Scholarship program**, which awards one graduate each year with a \$5,000 scholarship to be used to support the cost of their continuing participation at the National Training Institute.

“The NJATC has had a long time relationship with Westex and this takes it to a whole new level. We could not be happier with such strong and lasting support,” said NJATC Executive Director Michael Callanan. “The NJATC strives to produce the very best training materials possible and we believe that this type of commitment for our Blended Learning Model supports the future for how IBEW/NECA apprentices will learn their trade. We are grateful for the commitment from Westex to help us achieve this goal.”

“Westex is a strong believer in the IBEW and NECA and we are committed to supporting the future of skills training in America,” said Westex’s President Dan Bischoff. “We have worked together with the NJATC in various ways for over 10 years and I’m very happy to formally recognize the value of this great relationship.”

### **About Westex**

Established in 1919, Westex is the world’s largest manufacturer of arc rated and flame resistant fabrics with decades of market proven performance. Headquartered in Chicago, all manufacturing of Westex UltraSoft<sup>®</sup>, UltraSoft AC<sup>®</sup>, TrueComfort<sup>™</sup> and Indura<sup>®</sup> brand fabrics are in the United States. Today, thousands of companies specify Westex brand fabrics with millions of garments in service worldwide. Westex is Proud to be an 8-time NJATC Platinum Training Partner, in the 6<sup>th</sup> year as NECA Premier Partner and a Partner in Safety of the IBEW.

Visit Westex’s Facebook page and for every “like” we will donate \$5 to the NJATC for continued safety training of America’s current and future NECA/IBEW members. For more information go to: [www.westex.com](http://www.westex.com)

### **About NJATC**

The NJATC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1941 by the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The organization is committed to developing and standardizing education in the electrical industry to properly and effectively train members of NECA and the IBEW; providing the electrical construction industry with the most highly trained and skilled workforce possible. Since its inception, more than 325,000 apprentices have completed NJATC training programs and become competent Journeymen, making the organization one of the largest training and apprenticeship programs of its kind. For more information, go to [www.njatc.org](http://www.njatc.org).

### **About National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)**

NECA is the voice of the \$130 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across the United States. NECA’s national office and 119 local chapters advance the industry through advocacy, education, research, and standards development. For more information, visit [www.necanet.org](http://www.necanet.org).

### **About The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)**

The IBEW is an international labor organization that has trained the most qualified electricians in the trade for more than 117 years. With approximately 725,000 members in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Republic of Panama, the IBEW has members in construction, utilities, manufacturing, telecommunications, broadcasting, railroads and government. For more information, visit [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).

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