How do I become a Heavy Equipment Mechanic Apprentice?

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478 Apprenticeship Training and Skill Improvement Fund is taking applications this winter for a program starting in the spring for a limited number of apprentices. This training is intended for individuals interested in becoming a Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

Applications must be completed in person at 240 Cheshire Road, Meriden, CT 06451. Applications will be available (M-F) January 6, through January 17, 2014 (from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) for a program starting February 17, 2014.

The I.U.O.E. Local 478 Training Fund adheres to the Equal Employment Opportunity principles. For additional information visit our website at www.local478.org or call 1-800-841-0478.

**Minimum qualifications of all apprenticeship applicants:**

- Minimum age of 18
- Valid CT driver’s license
- High school diploma or G.E.D.
- Must be able to meet the physical requirements of the job,
- Apprentices must be available for numerous evening and Saturday training sessions at the Meriden training center throughout the 4 years of training.

**Be prepared to fill out an application**

Have your complete employment history with you. Bring references and contact information with you. Have your educational history and list of any formal training you have received in the past.

**What is a Heavy Equipment Mechanic?**

Heavy Equipment Mechanics, analyze, repair, rebuild and maintain construction equipment such as cranes, over road trucks, dozers, paving machines, motor graders, wheel loaders, excavators and a host of various machines used by the industry.

They will troubleshoot, disassemble, inspect, repair and reassemble machine components using state of the art tooling and technology.

Then they will test the components and verify that the repairs were done in accordance with the manufactures procedures and specifications. Then put the machine back into service.

They make good wage rates and fringe benefits. They are typically involved with the most exciting and challenging parts of the construction industry related to heavy equipment repairs in which they can acquire new skills and knowledge.

**How does it work?**

The best way to learn the skills of a Heavy Equipment Mechanic is to do the work of a Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Therefore, an apprentice will actually work on the job, learning from journey worker mechanics as well as taking classes from a dedicated training instructor at our school.

If you are selected, you will first have to complete pre-apprenticeship training. During this period, you will gain formal training in the basic areas necessary to work on a jobsite. You will also be evaluated by the local 478 staff of instructors on your knowledge and performance. You will not make any wages during this period, however there is no charge to you either.

Each apprentice must accumulate 8,000 hours of combined OJT and related classroom training. In the classroom, the apprentice will supplement on the job training with mandatory related instruction at the training site. Apprentices receive instruction in safety, fundamentals of engines, power trains, hydraulics, electrical and computers.