



Media Contact: Angie Duntz
Phone: 316.771.6606
aduntz@workforce-ks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 30, 2016

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PAYS OFF FOR WORKFORCE CENTER PARTICIPANT

WICHITA, KS - A partnership between the Wichita Workforce Center and the Wichita Electrical Apprenticeship paid off big time for Corbin Rios, a participant in the Registered Apprenticeship (RA) program through the Workforce Center.

Rios was awarded \$30,000 in a ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 29 for taking first place in the apprentice/student division of the Ideal Tools National Tradesman Championship held in Orlando, FL. Ideal Industries, headquartered in Illinois, hosted the Championship to celebrate their centennial and to honor and showcase the abilities of electrical professionals, students and apprentices. The Championship was a three-round competition in which contestants demonstrated their problem-solving and physical skills across four categories: wire cutting, stripping, termination and testing through a multi-station speed test and was judged on fastest completion time and overall accuracy of the wire connection. In addition to the \$30,000 awarded to Rios, the Wichita Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (WEJATC) received \$5,000 as part of the apprentice category award.

“Congratulations to Corbin, what an accomplishment,” said Tony Naylor, training director for the Wichita Electrical Apprenticeship. “He is one of many incredibly talented people in our Electrical Apprenticeship Program.”

Rios entered the RA program through the Workforce Center in March 2015 when he was 33 years old with no post-secondary education and a family of four to support. Before entering the program he was making \$10/hr. After completing his first year apprenticeship certificate his was earning \$15.38/hr with benefits. Rios is currently employed at Shelly Electric.

-more-

“The Registered Apprenticeship program is an employment and training program where students earn wages while learning a skilled profession,” said Keith Lawing, president and CEO of Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas. “We are proud of the strong partnerships we have built with local Apprenticeships which allow the Workforce Center to provide opportunities for students to advance their career in trade programs.”

RA is an ‘earn and learn’ model and is a proven system for training employees in a variety of occupations that require a wide range of skills and knowledge. It is an ideal way for employers to build and maintain a skilled workforce. RA combines employment, on-the-job learning, mentorship and related technical instruction to both educate and develop business and industries’ workforce.

In addition to the Wichita Electrical Apprenticeship, the Workforce Centers partner with five other local RA programs to accept applications as well as screen and assess the candidates.

The Workforce Alliance is the Administrative Entity, One Stop Operator, and Program Administrator for Local Area IV in Kansas, which includes the counties of Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick and Sumner. Operations for Local Area IV are directed by the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB). The daily operations of the LWIB are carried out by a professional staff, led by a President and Chief Executive Officer. For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit www.workforce-ks.com.

###