

# Jalisa



Before I came to ANEW, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do with my life. I'm 15 months into my recovery and am searching for a new way of life and want to do something my family and I can be proud of. I found out about ANEW through one of my roommates at the DV safehouse I live in. I just moved here fresh out of an inpatient program in August. I was looking for employment and other resources that could help me get on my feet. I decided to enroll in the program to learn something

new and to get a job to pursue my passion for heavy equipment operations. I wanted a career in the building-trades because I have past experience as a front-end loader operator for Seadrumar Recycling Factory. ANEW has taught me about a variety of trades and skills that I know will help me in my future. In my training experience, I learned so much about myself. First and foremost that I can successfully complete anything I set my mind to. I've learned so much discipline within myself and gained a great sense of accomplishment by enrolling and graduating from this program. I learned the ins and outs of what a Union is and how to use numerous hand/power tools. Also, how to handle and maintain a structured responsible lifestyle that has a high physical demand, the importance of good sleep hygiene, healthy eating habits, and proper exercise. All of which I truly enjoy. I have applied for the IUOE 302 Apprenticeship for Heavy Equipment Operators. I also am looking into the mental health field of the construction industry because I am passionate about mental health/substance use disorders and strive to be of service to give back what was so freely given to me. I want to thank all the instructors/staff here at ANEW for their time and dedication to teaching and supporting us and for this amazing opportunity that this program has given my fellow classmates from TRP-125. I want to thank all the women from TRP-125 for making this such a memorable experience as well. I also want to thank my family and close friends for their encouragement and support. So, to anyone interested in joining the program, do it you will not regret it and it's worth giving your all and showing up for yourself every day. -**TRP 125 December 2024**

# Oletele



Before I came to ANEW, life felt heavy. I had just come out of prison, and sadness and doubt were my constant companions. I didn't know how to move forward or if I even could. Then, my CO told me about ANEW, and for the first time in a long time, I saw an opportunity for change—a chance to start fresh. I decided to enroll because I knew I wanted something different. I was tired of my old life and the mistakes I'd made.

Deep down, I realized I deserved better, and this program gave me the tools to start building that better life. At first, I was thinking of cement masonry, then iron work caught my full attention. The strength, skill, and discipline it takes to be an iron worker spoke to me and I knew it was what I wanted to do. I'll be applying to join their ranks. Being part of a union is one of the best opportunities out there, and I'm excited to be part of something so rewarding. The union isn't just about good pay and benefits—it's about stability, growth, and community. As a union member, I'll have access to great healthcare, retirement plans, and steady work. But it's more than that. Unions provide training and support so I can keep improving and advancing in my career. They offer a network of people who have my back, who are working toward the same goals, and who take pride in their craft. That's the kind of environment I want to build my future in, and I'm ready to get started. To my fellow graduates: we did it. We've proved that we can choose a different path, that we're capable of creating a future we're proud of. Let's take what we've learned here and show the world what we're made of. — **TRP 125 December 2024**

# Aurora



Before I came to ANEW, I was a lead budtender at a dispensary that had been robbed multiple times during my stint there, which left me wanting to get out of the field and also looking for more out of life. So, I started Googling apprenticeships, remembering a buddy of mine who had gotten into one, years ago. This led me to ANEW and their TRP program, which stuck

out to me as a trans individual with the level of inclusivity that ANEW was fostering with this program. This, plus the benefits of the trades, will only further my desire to learn and grow. In my training experience at ANEW, I learned that I want to challenge myself and learn more every day. I have also had my interest peaked to join the elevator union which I may try for if my original goal of joining the IBEW falls through. I want to thank ANEW for having such a wonderful program. – ***TRP 125 December 2024***

# Kandis



Before I came to ANEW, my journey had led me down a road where I was incarcerated. I'm currently on work release starting my journey on rebuilding my life and preparing myself for a stable future in the Union of Heavy Machine Operating. I found out about ANEW through my DOC officer. Thank you, Megan, for helping me

get to this point. I decided to enroll in the program because I've always had a passion for the trades. I love working with my hands and being a part of the type of environment where I feel like I am doing things that make a difference. In my training, I learned how to do basic carpentry. I learned about myself, working with different types of people and how to conduct myself on a construction site. I've shown myself that I can do so much more so I plan on applying for the elevator operators as well. I want to thank my cohort; the most amazing people that I've ever got a chance to meet. You guys have made this experience absolutely remarkable and never, ever a dull moment. We have learned to work together, and you guys have been there for me through so much. The things I have gone through during this time of being at ANEW has been rollercoaster of emotions. I have had to experience the death of a sibling while trying to rebuild my life and you guys helped me through every step. -**TRP 125 December 2024**