



Left: Lou Villegas & Dorian Nez; Top Row: L-R: Brent Wright (assistant), Joshua Camarillo, Billy Joe Cruz, Dorian Nez; James Carlisle; Bottom Row: L-R: Nancy Villegas; Laura Ivy

#PeopleMatter and #Teamwork are two of MasTec Industrial's core beliefs that were recently demonstrated by employees going above and beyond. We all realize the importance of training and education in this field but sometimes the best learning comes from your fellow coworker. Lou Villegas, James Hester and James Carlisle are welders that have used their knowledge and experience to help others. After working all day, they use their time in the evening to teach others key welding skills that have allowed their colleagues to achieve certification. We applaud Lou and James and thank you for your determination to help those around you to succeed!

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Lou Villegas

Journeyman Construction Welder/Mastercraft NCCER Boilermakers

Why is teaching welding important you?

When I started welding in 1995 there wasn't a school to learn the trade and since then I've seen people with potential but no opportunity to learn. Now that I'm sober, my priorities changed and I want different things and it's fulfilling.

What is most rewarding about teaching others?

Seeing their facial expressions as they improve, and repurposing things that would go to waste. Also, seeing the three students that got certified and one girl now working for MasTec - she's new to the industry. Helping them make more money makes me feel good.

What advice can you share from your experiences?

Always be aware of your surroundings and who you're working with. Take nothing for granted, accidents happen, and they happen fast.

James Hester

QC Field Tech

Why is teaching welding important to you?

I love this trade and my job is more fulfilling when I can help teach others.

How did you start teaching others?

After welding for 30 years, I saw that there was a shortage of welders. I had friends that wanted to learn how to weld, and I had the ability to teach them with my access to welding equipment and knowledge.

What is your favorite/most rewarding part of teaching others?

Seeing students take away a skill/trade that will better them and their families lives with the opportunity to get paid good money and get paid to travel for jobs. It is very rewarding to see someone that you have taught on the jobsite/in the field after they pass.

What advice can you share from your experiences?

You should always be learning, and you learn something new every day. Also, you can't just jump into something and expect to be great. Study your welds and see how you can improve and how each is unique. Your weld is your signature, not your name, at the end of the day.

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James Carlisle

QC Technician and Welding Inspector

Why is teaching welding is important to you?

Everyone learns different and every welder "welds" differently. Having more instructors helps teach more people effectively using different styles and techniques.

How did you start/what were your intentions when you began?

At the time, I was working on the road away from my wife so I had free time after work. One welder wanted to learn how to weld pipe in order to move from structural welding to pipe welding so I asked if could be on site afterhours to do some training. It just started out as filling some free time but the word got out other employees asked their bosses how to sign up. More students meant a larger Connex and eventually more teachers!

What is your favorite/most rewarding part of teaching others?

The "aha-moments" when it all comes together and clicks for the student. There is so much unknown when they start and seeing all the pieces line up at the end for them gives me real sense a pride.

Have you learned from any past experiences?

When in the position of being a 'teacher' it needs to not be self-serving. I'm there to help expand the workforce and help the up-and-comers that are new to the industry. You know the welder is up to par because you're the one who trained them and I want to make training available on as many projects as possible.