

August 3, 2011 It was 'Magic' for Tri-Counties Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Program



Instructor opens the door of opportunity to high school students during MAGIC Camp for high school girls.

Members of the Tri-Counties Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Program in Ventura, were thinking pink the week of July 15 at MAGIC Camp (Mentor A Girl In Construction) where 15 junior and senior high school women from local high schools participated in five days of hands-on construction, , the organization reported in a media release.

Sponsored by the National Association of Women in Construction's Ventura/Oxnard and Simi/Conejo Valley chapters, David Maquinalez, an instructor and training coordinator with the Tri-Counties Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Program, provided a comprehensive hands-on session to students who fabricated their own toolbox from several precut pieces of sheet-metal.

"It was great to be part of MAGIC Camp and we look forward to next year," Maquinalez said. "A career in the sheet metal industry can be a lucrative profession for women as it offers a great work environment, above average wages and creativity with the opportunity to grow into a number of different fields."

The Tri-Counties Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Program maintains and operates a state-of-the-art facility and accepts individuals 18 years of age and older to train with craftsmen.

Apprentices must complete 800 hours of classroom training and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training to become a journeyman sheet metal worker, allowing apprentices to earn while they learn.

Trades include heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, architectural sheet metal, industrial sheet metal, kitchen equipment, specialty stainless steel work, custom fabricating, service, siding and decking, testing and balancing and energy management and maintenance.