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IEC Announces National Electrical Apprentice of the Year Competition Winner!

Olalla, WA—October 27, 2005—***“IEC ANNOUNCES WASHINGTON STATE “APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR” COMPETITOR IS NATIONAL WINNER”***..... IEC of Washington Educational Training Fund, The Puget Sound Washington Chapter of Independent Electrical Contractors, Northwest Washington IEC, IEC Central Washington and IEC Eastern Washington Chapters are honored to announce that state “Electrical Apprentice of the Year” winner, **Jerrad Krause**, of Bellingham, WA, took **top honors** at their recent **National competition. Krause was awarded the “National Apprentice of the Year” at the 48th Annual IEC National Convention, IEC Electric Expo and Apprentice Wire-Off**, held in Baltimore, MD in early October. Jerrad competed against 19 other electrical apprentices from around the country, in the tough, 3 day, competition. He was the first to complete the hands-on lab, requiring complete design and construction of an electrical project. Contestant’s cubicles were in the middle of the **IEC Electrical Expo**, where over 2,000 attendees were able to view the competition while visiting vendor’s booths. The competition also included interviews and a rigorous written examination.

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Jerrad's name was announced as the winner of the competition during the **Annual Awards and Banquet Dinner on October 8th, 2005 in the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Convention Center.** Winning the competition for Jerrad was the culmination of 4 years of "on the job" training and electrical apprenticeship schooling, through the Everett branch of IEC of Washington's state wide program.

"All of the competitors were pretty good," said Jerrad. "But I didn't spend a lot of time looking around at them." When asked about the prizes he won, Jerrad said aside from the honor, he received his trip costs, \$3,000 in cash, Milwaukee power tools, Greenlee, Ideal and 3M hand tools and an assortment of other prizes. Jerrad was accompanied by his wife, Kelli, and 7month old daughter Kyla. His two sons, Anthony and Travis remained home.

Jerrad joined Hulford Electric, Bellingham, WA in 2002. Prior to that, he spent three years in varied positions in retail sales and concrete construction. Jerrad holds an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from Bellingham Technical College. Jerrad is focused on a long term career in the electrical construction industry. Short term, of course, he hopes to gain his journeyman's license. Longer term, he hopes to learn how to bid jobs; and one day, perhaps own and run his own business.

"We are in dire need of intelligent, mechanically minded young people, who are highly motivated and have a good driving record, to enter the program," says National IEC President, John F. Biagas. "Jerrad, and all of this year's competitors, are fine examples of the kind of people we need entering our apprenticeship program and the industry."

IEC National gratefully acknowledges the generous donation of Southwire, the sponsor of this year's competition. IEC National would also like to acknowledge the donations of prizes, products and/or services from: AFC;

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Allied Tube and Conduit; American Technical Publishers; Carlon/Lamson and Sessions; Eaton Cutler-Hammer; Thomson Delmar Learning; Fluke; Ideal; Leviton; 3M; Milwaukee Power Tools; National Fire Protection Association; Square D/Schneider Electric; The Smart Cart; Thomas and Betts; and WESCO that helped make this year's competition possible.

The IEC National Apprentice of the Year Competition is held every year at the Annual IEC National Convention and IEC Electric Expo.

For more information about the **IEC's Washington State Electrical Apprenticeship Program** call Jolie Estes at 1-800-595-0900. For more information about the IEC or membership in the Puget Sound WA chapter, call Executive Director Meredith Lambert at [360-876-1299](tel:360-876-1299), go to their website at www.pugetsoundwaiec.org, or email the office at pugetsoundiec@cs.com

Established in 1957, IEC is a trade association made up of more than 3,200 members with 74 chapters nationwide. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., IEC is the nation's premier trade association representing America's independent electrical and systems contractors. IEC National aggressively works with the industry to establish a competitive environment for the merit shop – a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all. For more information, contact Marlise Drischler, Public Relations Manager at (703) 549-7351, or via email: mdrischler@ieci.org.

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Please see picture file below and also attached to this email with a picture of Jerrad Krause (L) receiving his award from National IEC President, John F. Biagas at the **48th Annual IEC National Convention, IEC Electric Expo and Apprentice of the Year Wire-Off**, held in Baltimore, MD, October 5-8, 2005.

