



Green Plumbers Instructor Honored with Award

Plumbing and heating instructor Bradley Harding received the PHCC's Plumbing Instructor of the Year Award for 2014.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KVCC



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Story by Mike Flenniken

The PHCC Educational Foundation and *Contractor* magazine have selected Bradley Harding, a plumbing and heating instructor at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, Maine, as the recipient of the Plumbing Instructor of the Year Award.

Harding received the award during PHCC's convention and trade show in October in New Orleans.

Alice Ames, executive director of the PHCC of Maine, nominated Harding for the award.

In her nomination form, Ames calls Harding a "visionary in designing and building the program," described him as committed and dedicated to the program and his students, and said he is very conscientious and puts his students first in all he does.

Harding worked in the plumbing industry for three decades before transitioning to education, and is KVCC's only plumbing instructor for its Energy Services and Technology Program.

The community college is the first school in the United States to offer IAPMO's Green Plumbers Training curriculum. Students who graduate with an EST Associate of Applied Science are eligible for four different licensure opportunities — plumbing, oil burner, solid fuel, and propane and natural gas — and two national certifications — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Refrigeration Certification and Green Plumbers Training Certification.

"I am very honored to receive the award as PHCC National Plumbing Instructor of the Year," Harding said. "I think this award is reflective of my commitment to the plumbing industry to develop this new program for the college and students."

The program, which began in August 2012, produced its first 12 graduates in May 2014. Nineteen students are now enrolled.

“(Harding) literally built the plumbing program from the ground up,” Ames writes on the form. “Prior to his hiring, there was no plumbing shop, no materials or books, no curriculum and no existing student base.”

He also helped establish the Energy Services and Technology Advisory Council along with Dana Doran, director of Energy Programs for KVCC. Harding serves as chair of the council, which consists of more than 20 industry and educational professionals.

“Brad truly leads by example and his students are aware of the true professional he is,” Ames writes. “His guest speakers, especially the successful contractors, demonstrate the need for professionalism in the industry and the benefits of being a professional.”



Harding receives the award from Bob Mader, left, and Roger Peugeot.
PHOTO BY STEVE LEHTONEN



Steve Lehtonen congratulates Harding on receiving the award.
PHOTO BY BRADLEY HARDING

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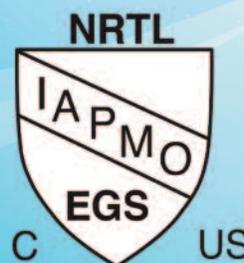
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