

# TRADEFUTURES

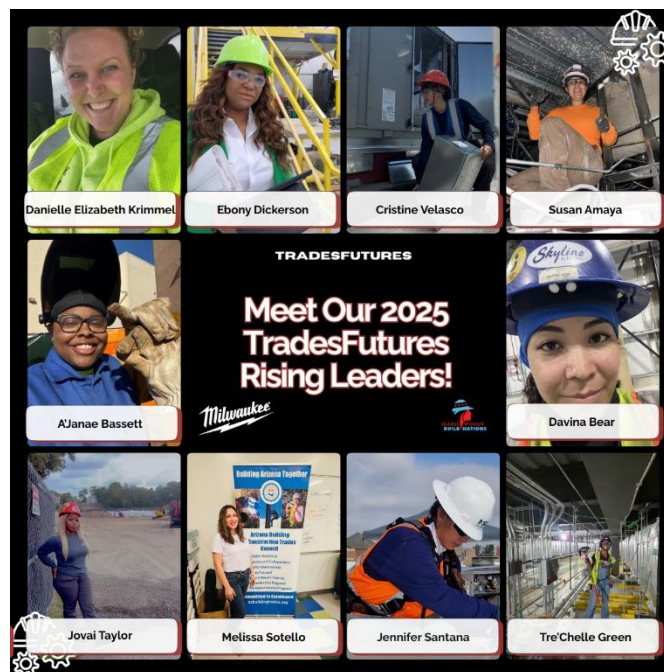
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## TradesFutures Announces 2025 Rising Leaders Program Winners

**Washington, D.C. – Sept. 5, 2025** – TradesFutures is proud to announce the winners of the 2025 TradesFutures Rising Leaders Program, sponsored by [Milwaukee Tool](#), celebrating exceptional graduates of Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) across the country. These tradeswomen have demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination, and leadership, overcoming personal, professional, and systemic challenges to build thriving careers in the trades.

From navigating union transitions and breaking barriers in male-dominated industries to mentoring the next generation of apprentices, these Rising Leaders exemplify the hard work, skill, and tenacity that define the future of America's skilled trades. These women will be honored at the 2025 [Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference](#) in Chicago, IL, September 19-21.

### Meet the 2025 Winners



**Cristine Velasco** – Apprentice, [SMART Local 105](#); Graduate of [Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles \(WINTER\)](#), Commerce, CA. Cristine admires the merit-based structure of the trades and has excelled in Air Balance, learning to operate independently on job sites. Her perseverance and dedication to growth make her a standout in her union and community.

**Danielle Elizabeth Krimmel** – Apprentice, [IBEW Local 665](#); Graduate of [Women in Skilled Trades \(WIST\)](#), Lansing, MI. Danielle comes from a family of carpenters and welders and has already overcome her fear of heights and the challenges of adjusting to demanding job sites. She is committed to showing that perseverance and hard work open doors for women in the trades.

**Davina Bear** – Apprentice, [IBEW Local 354](#); graduate of Karen Mayne ARP with [Utah](#)

[Women in Trades](#), Utah. Davina transitioned from childcare to a career in the electrical trade, inspired by her mother's path as an Operating Engineer. She has been recognized statewide for her dedication and continues to mentor new ARP graduates.

**Ebony Dickerson** – Principal, [Solomon Finishers, LLC](#), [IUPAT District Council 82](#); graduate of [Building Strong Communities](#), Minneapolis, MN. Ebony transformed her family's legacy in painting and finishing trades into a Black woman-owned, union-signatory company. She is committed to creating opportunities for young apprentices and women of color in construction.

**Jennifer Santana** – Apprentice, [SMART Local 105](#); graduate of [HireLAX ARP](#), Los Angeles, CA. After working in office management and general construction, Jennifer found her passion in the trades through HireLAX. She has quickly gained recognition for her initiative, organization, and commitment to learning in the field.

**Jovai Taylor** – Apprentice, [IBEW Local 12](#); graduate of [Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#), Boston, MA. Jovai overcame personal and family challenges to earn her spot in Local 12. Her dedication and resilience exemplify the perseverance required to succeed in the trades.

**A'Janae Bassett** – Apprentice, graduate of [Rising Sun Center of Opportunity](#), Oakland, CA. A'Janae began her journey in building trades in high school and, after serving in the U.S. Navy, returned to pursue her passion for welding and metal repair. She overcame obstacles including union transitions and paperwork challenges to start her career.

**Melissa Sotello** – Instructor, [Arizona Building Trades Council ARP](#), [IUPAT](#); graduate of Arizona Building & Construction Trades Council ARP, Phoenix, AZ. Melissa transitioned from over 15 years in customer service and warehouse leadership into teaching and mentoring the next generation of tradeswomen. She combines her technical skills with a passion for workforce development.

**Susan Amaya** – Inside Wireman, [IBEW Local 11](#); graduate of [Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles \(WINTER\)](#), Los Angeles/Orange County, CA. Susan's journey from preschool teacher to electrician demonstrates resilience and adaptability. She thrives on problem-solving and has become a role model for women entering the electrical trade.

**Tre'Chelle Green** – Apprentice, [IBEW Local 124](#); graduate of [Greater Kansas City Missouri ARP](#), Kansas City, MO. Tra'Chelle brings mechanical aptitude, hands-on skill, and determination to her work. Balancing family responsibilities with apprenticeship, she embodies the dedication and perseverance of TradesFutures Rising Leaders.

TradesFutures congratulates these outstanding individuals and looks forward to seeing their continued success in the trades.

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Contact: Allison Balanc, TradesFutures | [allison@tradesfutures.org](mailto:allison@tradesfutures.org) | (202) 213- 9171

**About TradesFutures:** TradesFutures is a non-profit corporation organized to develop, promote, and improve Apprenticeship Readiness Programs ("ARPs"). ARPs are educational programs that provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to choose, obtain, and succeed in a formal, registered

apprenticeship in the construction industry. TradesFutures is also dedicated to assisting women, veterans, and people of color in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. Learn more about TradesFutures and its work to develop a more diverse and accessible quality construction workforce at [tradesfutures.org](https://tradesfutures.org).

**About Milwaukee Tool :** For over 100 years, Milwaukee Tool has led the industry with innovative solutions that redefine performance, productivity, and safety for the professional trades. Fueled by an unwavering commitment to its users, Milwaukee Tool pioneers breakthrough technologies, products, and services that empower tradespeople to excel in their work and return home safely each day. Milwaukee is dedicated to delivering a steady stream of advanced, trade-specific solutions from its global research, design and development facilities located across southeast Wisconsin. Milwaukee® is a subsidiary of Techtronic Industries Co. Ltd. (TTI), a world leader in cordless technology. For more information about Milwaukee Tool, visit [www.milwaukeetool.com](https://www.milwaukeetool.com).