



Schools to Tools Educator Presentation – Notes for Slides

Slide 1:

Let students know why we are presenting this information:

- We want to talk to you about career opportunities that exist if you want to be a Carpenter or a Millwright.
- For many students, college is the right answer, but for others, continuing your education by learning while earning is the right answer.
- This is just a brief overview but there are ways to get more information that we will get to at the end of the presentation.

Slide 2:

- The Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights (MRCC) is a union of over 14,000 skilled tradesmen and women in Michigan and is the regional council of The United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC)
- The Union has a long tradition of building quality structures that last and our presence in Michigan goes back to the beginning of the national Union.
- Before we go any further, let's stop for some quick definitions.

- An **apprentice** a person who works for another to learn a trade
- The **skilled trades** are occupations that require a particular skill set, knowledge or ability: *a carpenter is a member of the skilled trades*
- An apprenticeship in the skilled trades is the other four-year degree.
- From classroom learning to hands-on learning and lifetime learning that follows. Members of the skilled trades look back on their apprenticeship the way those in other professions look back on what they learned in college.

Slide 3:

- There has never been a better time to start a career as a unionized Carpenter or Millwright.
- Here are just a few reasons why :
- The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget has named Carpenters & Millwrights as a Hot 50, high demand, high wage career

(source: https://milmi.org/docs/publications/Hot50_Poster_2028.pdf)

- The CHIPS Act and other legislation as well is leading to an unprecedented boom in construction jobs in Michigan and across the United States.

Slide 4:

- Thanks to laws passed in recent years, the United States is expected to see \$9.3 billion in public investments in Michigan construction projects.
- In addition, this historic spending on public infrastructure will also lead to a direct \$23 billion in private investments in new construction projects in Michigan.
- Those two numbers represent more than money and more than jobs. Those two numbers mean that there is now and will be far into the future, a high-demand for career Carpenters and Millwrights.

Slide 5:

- Let's take some time to talk about what it means to choose being a carpenter or millwright as a career
- Not only are union carpenters and millwrights highly paid and in high demand but they are also very happy with their career choice.
- It's been reported that only Lumberjacks are happier on the job than a Carpenter.

Slide 6:

- A Union Carpenter makes on average \$81,057 + overtime, healthcare benefits and retirement (defined benefit pension plus) plus annuity.
- As mentioned before, the benefits package is roughly an additional \$30 per hour
- We know that many jobs now do not offer the same benefits - especially when it comes to retirement.
- I also want to take a moment to talk about some other benefits of being in a union.

- Unions are often like a family.
- They believe in mentorship, helping each other out, and ensuring everyone has a great work/life balance.
- Plus, a career in the unionized skilled trades allows members to work all over the world and build really cool stuff.

Slide 7:

- A study by Northeastern University shows the following average salaries for college graduates (source: <https://bachelors-completion.northeastern.edu/news/average-salary-by-education-level/>)
- The average salary for a worker with an Associate's Degree is \$50,093

Slide 8:

- The average salary for a worker with a Bachelor's Degree is \$69,381
- Let's be clear, this is just the average and some people with college degrees do make much more than this.
- We know that fewer and fewer jobs offer the kind of benefits and retirement of a union carpenter or millwright.
- So what's the takeaway? Simply this - each of you is different you'll have the opportunity to explore all career choices.

Slide 9:

- Here is what you need to know about the training programs offered by the Carpenters and Millwrights Union.
- The training programs are Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs. That means you won't be scammed.
- The training programs offer up to 30 hours of college credit for attendees. For those students who choose both college and a career in the skilled trades.
- That's why they say, "Being an apprentice is the other four year degree."
- You can find out more about these by contacting the union.

Slide 10:

- Ok, let's talk about how someone would begin their journey as a union carpenter or millwright
- First off, the union accepts applications to the program at their training centers and pair you with an agent who can help answer your questions.
- They also have a mentoring program for new students to guide them through the process.

Slide 11:

- There are many different types of training programs that promise a career in the skilled trades but there are many differences between a good and bad training program
- Here are the things to look for in a good training program – such as the one offered by the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights
 - Program is free. No tuition.
 - Connected to employers who will hire you, not just a certificate.
 - Students are paid for both on the job training and classroom training
 - You get paid by the contractor for work on job sites and while in school.
 - DOL Certified Registered Apprenticeship Programs - these programs have been vetted and certified by the Department of Labor
- Can't stress this enough - if the training program costs money and/or has no connection to employers then it's not a true apprenticeship program.

Slide 12:

- If you decide to become an apprentice and begin their career as a union carpenter, there are a few first steps:
 - Must have High School Diploma or GED
 - Must have a valid Drivers License
 - Must pass drug test
 - Take a math assessment

- An apprenticeship in the skilled trades is the other four-year degree.
- From classroom learning to hands-on learning and lifetime learning that follows. Members of the skilled trades look back on their apprenticeship the way those in other professions look back on what they learned in college.

Slide 13:

- If you need more information, you can visit the website by scanning this QR code.
- You can also contact Zach Rich with the union.