



NECA/IBEW Local 48 and Intel

In the 1990s technology surpassed timber as Oregon's top industrial employer.

As many lumber mills and pulp and paper plants closed down, electrical workers found themselves working increasingly on the construction and installation of complex lighting and wiring for telecommunications systems, computers, servers, routers, and cabling and panel installations, with backup power supplies computer chip fabrication systems as well as electrical support systems for science, medical and apparel industries that would expand rapidly throughout the year 2000.

In 1994, Intel expanded its operations in Washington County with the construction of a \$705 million Aloha project, the first phase that lead to future expansion of its microprocessor design and production facilities in Hillsboro. This marked the start of Intel becoming a continuing source of work for NECA/IBEW Local 48.



Foreman Chuck Schuurmans of Oregon Electric Construction at the OHSU Biomedical Center.

Two years later, Intel contractors, and the small army of NECA/IBEW local 48 electricians, completed their work and the company opened its Fab 20 computer chip manufacturing plant at the campus near Hillsboro Stadium. The chip factory is the first of four that Intel will build, making it the largest NECA/IBEW Local 48 client in the region.

To this day, Intel continues to be one of NECA/IBEW Local 48's major customers. Because of the partnership's commitment to helping their members stay on the forefront of emerging technologies and practices, Intel and other high tech companies that make the "Silicon Forest" a large portion of NECA/IBEW Local 48's client base.

As technology, and those who produce it, grows and evolves, so will NECA/IBEW Local 48 expertise and practices.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 History of Education

NECA/IBEW Local 48 has always been invested in providing the best training for its members. On March 8, 1929 NECA/IBEW Local 48 started the "Portland Apprentice School" with the help of Portland Public Schools and the Oregon Building Congress. The school started with 18 apprentices signed up for the five-year program. By 1939, the program survives the Great Depression and had grown to 45 apprentices. By 1949, the apprentice school has 104 students. Classes cover electrical codes, motors, motor controllers, electronics, mathematics and electrical theory.



Apprentice School - 1942

In 1963 NECA/IBEW Local 48 employers form Metro Training Trust and assume the state's control over the Apprenticeship Training Program. Funded by an employer-paid contribution of 2 cents per hour, the Trust would train apprentices, provide continuing education for journeymen, update members on new and emerging technology and help union members meet license requirements.

The partnership invested \$6 million in a new Electrical Training Center on NE Airport Way in 1998. The new facility, the most advanced of its



Current NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center

type in the nation, allowed NECA/IBEW Local 48 to conduct research and development in the emergent fields of: alternative power generation and distribution, high technology installations, net-zero building constructing, LEED certified green buildings, electric vehicle recharging and advanced computer and telecommunications

installation.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 continues to offer training and education on breaking technology and the latest codes. This month, 87 graduates crossed the stage to receive their diploma and commemorative coins from the Electrical Training Alliance.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 congratulates the recent graduates and looks forward to seeing more apprentices graduate each year.



**As we remember the brave who gave their lives
serving our country this Memorial Day,
NECA/IBEW Local 48 would also like to recognize all
the men and women and their families who have, or
are currently, serving in the armed forces.**