



## Chairman's Perspective

**Missouri Valley JATC Chair and IBEW Local 1525 Business Manager Glen Petznick reflects on the career, the program and the future.**

Well-trained apprentices help union contactors stay competitive by providing them a steady supply of linemen who know how to get the job done right and safe. Having recently been appointed to chairman of the Missouri JATC, I am committed to keeping that tradition alive, a tradition of which I am proud to be a part.

Today you'll find me behind the desk at the union office in Omaha, Nebraska, but it wasn't that long ago that you'd find me climbing poles throughout the Midwest. Taking after my father and an uncle, I began my electrical construction career as an apprentice in the Missouri Valley program, the very same apprenticeship program my father went through years earlier. After becoming a journeyman lineman, I worked in the field as a foreman and general foreman before landing the job with the union. Although I miss working outdoors and hanging out with a crew, I am thrilled to further the careers of apprentice linemen. Today, Missouri Valley JATC is currently training 650 apprentices.

The number of apprentices that contractors rely on has grown tremendously over the past several years, and I see no end in sight. It will take 15 to 20 years to rebuild the country's power structure. After that, there will always be a need for linemen to maintain it. That means career stability for individuals who possess solid mechanical skills, are willing to travel and love the outdoors has never been better.

The growth of the electrical construction industry also means that the Missouri Valley JATC Program offers the best training possible. Our emphasis on hands-on training, the addition of the indoor pole yard, expanded safety courses and the use of new training technologies will continue to set us apart from other training programs.

We expect to make continued enhancements in those areas as well as the expand the certification programs as part of an apprentice's training.

When I was working in the field, I would tell people how valuable the Missouri Valley JATC program was in helping me reach my goals. Today, I'm proud to tell union contractors how valuable the program and its apprentices can be in helping them achieve their goals of successfully completing projects in the best and safest way possible. As the headline on the home page of the Missouri Valley JATC website reads, "Reach Your Potential in the Electrical Construction Industry." Our goal, today and in the future, is to make that statement as true for apprentices as it is for the contractors we serve.

### **More About The Missouri Valley Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program:**

The apprenticeship program based in Indianola, Iowa, is one of seven locations operated by the organization. The others are in the states of Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Iowa program occupies a training facility, which includes an outdoor pole yard. The Iowa program trains thousands of apprentice linemen each year.

### **For additional information, or to schedule a visit to our training facilities, contact**

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### **MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM**

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