



Eric Fradette, Hurst Mechanical Service Technician/ UA174 Apprentice, Takes Overall HVACR Top Award in State Competition

Coopersville, MI, May 27, 2009 – Eric Fradette, a Hurst Mechanical Service Technician and United Association of Plumbers, Fitters and Services Trades Local 174 (UA174) Apprentice was awarded first place in the annual Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Competition May 8 at UA190's Ann Arbor Training Center. The two day competition consisted of written and practical testing in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) service field. Fradette's skills in service trouble shooting, blue print reading, rigging and material identification were some of the skills evaluated in the state wide completion. Fradette commented, "This was the most stress I have ever been under but I enjoyed the experience immensely."

Through joint cooperation, Fradette participates in UA174's apprenticeship program while working at Hurst Mechanical. Hurst Mechanical, a local HVACR service company, is Fradette's employer, providing on-the- job and specialized training to the company's apprentices. Company President, Scott Dixon remarked, "We are very proud of Fradette's achievement. He is one of the many highly skilled certified service technicians employed by our company. Hurst encourages STAR certification, CSD1 Training, Green Awareness and other industry related certification for our workforce." It is noted that Fradette has obtained all of this specialized training.

Fradette participates in the UA174's apprenticeship program in Coopersville, MI. Jerry Hines, Training Coordinator at UA174, remarked, "We are proud of Fradette's level of expertise demonstrated at this level of competition. He did well in representing our local union, contractor's and the trade in general."

Steve Wiley, Fradette's Service Instructor, commented, "The state competition was very close between all participants. Fradette is a great guy to be around and work with. He always pushes himself & his instructor to a higher level."

Fradette will be representing the Michigan Pipes Trades at the Regional Pipes Trades Apprentice Competition in Northwood, Ohio June 1-5.

Fradette is a 2006 graduate of Ferris State University's HVACR Technology Bachelor of Science program and resident of Freeport, MI.

Hurst Mechanical strives for growth through commitment to service and sustainability. Hurst Mechanical has been awarded the MSCA's Green STAR and STAR certification.

UA174 has been working in partnership with its signatory contractors for over 100 years. UA174's commitment to training, in their registered apprenticeship and journeyman upgrade training has made members the best value in the mechanical contracting business. This model of lifelong learning combined with respectful labor/management relations works for today's and tomorrow's work environment.

Contact Cindy Morse, Executive Director of the West Michigan Mechanical Contractors Association at 616-735-9658 with questions or comments.