

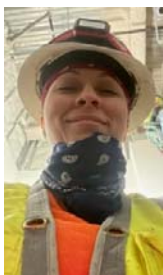
My name is Araceli Mendez. I am a Certified Electrician and an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Southern California electrical apprenticeship graduate. I joined ABC because I was driven to make a living for myself. After spending 12 years in incarceration and being released on parole, I was visiting my parole officer when I heard of this life-changing program. The ABC program offered a unique opportunity to make a great living, providing a structured learning environment and the chance to build lifelong relationships in the construction industry. My parole officer made the accommodations for me to attend the ABC apprenticeship program, even though it was outside the allowed area of my county.

I am a certified electrician and have worked in the field for seven years. Over the years, I have been involved in some fantastic projects, including the John J. Benoit Detention Center, Claremont McKenna College, Chaffey College, Ramona High School, Agua Caliente High School, and a three-story building at Los Alamitos High School. My work has been very rewarding as I have built our local community.

My experience with ABC was not just about learning a trade but about becoming part of a community. The structure of traditional apprenticeships was something I truly enjoyed, and it allowed me to network and build lifelong relationships with many people in the construction industry. The instructors and staff were not just educators; they were mentors who were always approachable and willing to go above and beyond to help me succeed in becoming an electrician. Even after graduating, I still enjoy taking classes through Continuing Education, and I am always welcomed with open arms. ABC was not just a career avenue, it was a family that led me to my successful career as an electrician.

ABC has not just provided me with a career, it has given me a life of fulfillment and opportunity. I am deeply grateful for this life-changing experience. Graduating from a state and federal-approved apprenticeship program and becoming a state-certified electrician has opened up a world of possibilities. The sky is truly the limit. I recommend ABC to anyone looking for a rewarding career path, as I am a living testament to the life-changing opportunities it can provide.

Thank you,



Araceli Mendez
California Certified General Electrician
ABC of Southern California Electrical Apprenticeship Graduate Class of 2022