

## **Ironworkers Local 229 offer opportunity to veterans**

The apprenticeship program of Ironworkers 229 can provide veterans with the skills needed to get hired by construction companies pledging to hire on more than 100,000 men and women serving our country.

More than 100 American construction companies came together at veterans' employment symposium, hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor and Joining Forces in February, to announce the significant hiring pledge over the next five years.

Ironworkers Local 229 has long been a proud participant in Helmets to Hardhats, a program that bridges the gap between the military and apprenticeship programs.

Local 229 Business Manager Johnny Galvan says this is the least they can do for the men and women who have sacrificed so much in protecting our country. The Local is committed to supporting veterans by giving them direct entry into the Ironworkers apprenticeship program.

“For those veterans who have an interest in the construction industry, this opportunity will allow them to build America and become part of an organization with a proud history, allowing them to embark in a career that provides excellent wages, health coverage and a pension,” says Galvan.

The apprentice program of Ironworkers Local 229 prepares workers for a career that offers good wages and excellent benefits. And while many in college sink into debt preparing for a career, ironworker apprentices earn while they learn.

“All men and women who have sacrificed for our country in our armed services deserve opportunities for good jobs worthy of their character and their achievements,” said Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. “The Department of Labor will do whatever it takes to help our veterans translate their skills and leadership into jobs, and I am inspired by the commitment displayed today by the construction industry and all our partners in helping to achieve that mission.”

The construction industry is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that [construction](#) is one of the [fastest-growing industries](#) in the nation, with job growth of more than 1.5 million jobs between now and 2022. [Jobs for ironworkers](#) are projected to grow 22 percent between 2012 and 2022, and median income for ironworkers is nearly 33 percent higher than the median for all jobs.

[Learn more about Helmets to Hardhats by clicking here](#)