



INTERVIEW WITH CAMERON HENRY - GRADUATE OF ROCHESTER MULTI-CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP PREPARATION PROGRAM (MAPP)

Rochester-Genesee Valley

WDI Staff

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Name: Cameron Henry

City: Rochester

Union: Bricklayers Local #3

Title: Currently a Second Year Apprentice (2019 graduate of MAPP (<https://rochestermap.com/>))

Age: 22

How Did you Find Out About The Program? My best friend was in Project Phoenix and told me about MAPP. I had recently dropped out of college and was working part-time at Wegmans. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. My friend connected me with Kereem Berry of MAPP.

What is a Typical Day like for you as a Bricklayer in Local #3? I wake up at 3:30 or 4:00 just because that's when I'm used to getting up. I get ready for work, and then drive anywhere between 15 minutes and an hour to work. My day is either an 8 hour or a 10 hour day. During the year I work and train on the job. I'm paid but I'm also learning, so this is "free" training. The months of January and February are "down" months when we are pulled from the field and do classroom training. During this time we do hands-on training at the Bricklayer's Training Center to learn new skills.

Why Did You Pick the Bricklayers Program? I like to build. I think it's really cool to build a wall or foundation and see it come together. I am a restoration mason, which means I can also say that I worked on a variety of different historical buildings, such as banks, prisons, churches, etc.

How Did The Program Connect You To the Different Unions? Kereem Berry (MAPP Training Director) made sure we visited all of the Training Centers and had opportunities to talk to all the different Trades. Then Kereem sat down with each of us individually to really make sure that we were making the right choices; he wanted to make sure this is what I wanted to do. He also explained that this was an opportunity for a lifelong career. Then Kereem handled making the connection for me to the Bricklayers. Everything was on autopilot after that.

How Has the Union Supported You? The Union has been very supportive in helping the apprentices move forward and gain skills. In addition to the Rochester Training Center, the Bricklayers also have an International Training Center in Maryland. Last year I had an opportunity to go down and train there during the down months. I gained new skills and a number of new certifications. The trainers were very patient and I had the opportunity to work on-on-one to learn new skills. The Trainers at the Bricklayers Training Hall in Rochester are also very supportive. They offer to stay after hours and work with people if it's needed. They're always asking us if there's something we want to learn, and letting us know that if there is they'll make sure there's a seat for us. They really care about their students. They stay in touch with us- checking in with us during the week to make sure that everything is going okay. They make the apprentices very welcome at union meetings.

Do you have any goals that you've been able to achieve as a result of this job and/or your union membership (*over and above the training and skills already mentioned*)? My life is very different today in terms of what I'm able to afford. Basic things like paying for a phone bill, gas, a car payment are not a problem.

Do You Have Any Advice for a Young Person Today Who May Not know what they want to do? Don't be afraid to take a path less followed. Construction is an amazing opportunity to gain a skill, feed your family, travel, meet amazing people. You're guaranteed to have a skill for life. I highly recommend considering pursuing a union