Wow, what a year! From fully embracing our accreditation designation to forming new relationships with key community groups. It was an exciting 2015 year for us at FTI-UM. We have more apprentices in our program, more instructors to teach them, and a stronger curriculum to setup our apprentices and our contractors for success in all that they do.

Congrats to all on a successful 2015 year!

Now if some of you are wondering what's next for you in 2016, consider a career in the finishing trades.

Great pay, benefits, a retirement, job security, you get all of this through apprenticeship with FTI-UM. You can even start earning credits towards a college degree since our program is accredited.

What are you waiting for? Check us out today and start your 2016 year the right way!

If you are interested in filling out a free application for our program, please click here.
Sincerely,

Nathan Manthei, Recruiting Coordinator
Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest

Want to stay in touch?

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, connect on LinkedIn, or view us on Instagram to stay up to date with what's happening at our facility.

Newsletters from 2015

Did you miss any of our past newsletters? Take a look at some of them from 2015!

October Newsletter
August Newsletter
February Newsletter
December (2014) Newsletter

Instructor Tony Osborn recognized in Contractor’s Newsletter!

Usually we use this space to spotlight our apprentices that have come through the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest. For this newsletter, we are spotlighting one of our newest instructors, Tony Osborn. Tony’s story was actually written and published by his former company, a contractor of ours, Heartland Glass. Heartland Glass recognized Tony in their December newsletter. The article is pasted below. You can sign up to receive Heartland Glass’s newsletter by following this link.

About FTI-UM

Thanks for your interest in what's going on at the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest. Check out more at:

Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest
3205 Country Dr., Suite 150
Little Canada, Minnesota 55117
“Admittedly it may seem a bit strange to honor a former employee, but we have our reasons.

In September of this year, we wished long-term colleague Tony Osborne well as he launched a new career as an apprentice instructor at the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest in Little Canada, MN.

After nearly 24 years with Heartland Glass, Tony wanted to step down off his current career ladder and turn to teaching. He had an opportunity from the Finishing Trades Institute to share his wealth of knowledge and talent with the next generation of glass professionals.

We could respect that.

The Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest is an ideal setting for professionals to enhance their skills and propel their careers to the next level. The institute serves current and potential workers in the finishing trades industry throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. FTI-UM provides training and career opportunities in four primary industries:

- Painting and Wallcovering
- Drywall Finishing
- Glazing and Glassworking
- Sign, Display, Screen Process, and Tradeshow Working

"The new position is going well!" Tony said, "I've been to Maryland twice now for training at our international training center and have learned the people both here and there truly want to see everyone succeed." Tony's glassworking group currently has around 110 students involved in the program both as Glaziers and Glassworkers. "As the students progress, we have several new training modules which offer a hands-on approach to training to both storefront and curtainwall. We also have a modern welding lab to enhance those skills as well."

Curtainwall and storefront are a huge part of what the FTI glassworking program does, but Tony still wants to see the apprentices come out of FTI with some of the old school techniques of glass replacements as well as being able to troubleshoot hardware to preserve that type of work. "My goal here is for everyone to leave here with the fundamentals they need, to be well rounded and an asset to any company they work for," Tony said.

With skilled laborers becoming increasingly harder and harder to find, we fully support and encourage the work of FTI and all they do to enhance our workforce for the future.
The entire Brin organization supports the FTI and the Painters and Allied Trades Union in their efforts to train and educate our tradespeople.

We are especially proud of the fact that our local is one of two in the entire country that is an accredited college.

Contractor Spotlight - Zintl, Inc.

For January's newsletter, we are spotlighting Zintl, Inc. They are a contractor in the drywall finishing trade. Last newsletter, we spotlighted Pompeii Painting, Inc., a specialty contractor in the commercial and painting trade.

What's a contractor? A contractor is essentially an employer that hires apprentices to go through the FTI-UM training programs. There are lots of different kinds of contractors out there. Specialty Contractors, such as Zintl, Inc., specialize in a particular area like drywall finishing.

FTI-UM has close relationships with specialized contractors in the commercial and industrial painting, drywall finishing, glazing, and sign and display trades as well as general contractors around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and nation-wide.

 Contractors such as Zintl, Inc. depend on the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest to provide skilled and qualified tradespeople.

What services do you offer?

Zintl, Inc. provides services in the wall and curtain industry. They're a part of the drywall finishing trade but
their services go far beyond simply mudding and taping. Below is a list of all the services Zintl, Inc. offers:

- New Construction and Remodeling
- Drywall
- Plastering Work
- Fireproofing
- Rough Carpentry
- Finish Carpentry
- Demolition

What sets Zintl, Inc. apart from its competition?

Simply put, Zintl, Inc. is the best. That's what they strive to be, and their vision reflects the same, "Be the Best." It's a mantra that has been engrained in their culture. It comes from the founder, Will Zintl's relentless pursuit of doing things right the first time. The entire organization has been built around this same principle, resulting in a team effort of doing it right the first time and being the best while doing it.

Zintl, Inc. takes a great deal of pride in their work. And being honest with the customer is a big part of that. Zintl, Inc. sees itself as a service organization where customer satisfaction is the greatest priority. They help ensure this is by handpicking the best union carpenters, tapers, plasterers, tenders, laborers, and project managers.

Zintl, Inc. offers the best results through quality work, people, service, safety, value, scalability and flexibility, consultation, and partnership.

What are some of the more well-known projects you've done?

Zintl, Inc. has worked on buildings from almost every industry. Here are a few of their more common types of projects.
Each type of projects requires its own unique set of skills and areas of emphasis. For example, working at places of worship often require significant detailed finishing work, often at great heights (picture above a sanctuary). In the medical field, Zintl, Inc. might work on hospitals or clinics where minimizing dust and risk of infectious agents is imperative.

No matter what project Zintl, Inc. is working on, their workforce has the diverse skillsets to complete the job well and on time. Their expertise and quality of work has landed them an impressive list of clients including 3M, Chipotle, Mystic Lake Casino, VA Hospital, and Victoria’s Secret.

**Where can I check out more?**

If you would like to learn more about Zintl, Inc., the services they offer, the projects they've done, or their team, visit their website at [www.zintlinc.com](http://www.zintlinc.com).

**Apprenticeship Program**

Our training and apprenticeship programs teach you to master skills in the drywall finishing, painting and wallcovering, glazing, and sign making trades.

The program is designed to challenge you, educate you, and most importantly, prepare you for a long, satisfying career you will be proud to call your own.

Here are some highlights.
Job Security
How good is a college degree without a job? Our program provides the opportunity for job security, fair treatment, and $60k a year in your pocket.

Earn While You Learn
Four-year colleges can cost upwards of $140k. Technical schools come in around $20k. Here, you get paid to learn.

2-3 Year Commitment
Three years and you're done, tops. College could take five, and if you're thinking about the military, it could be as many as six.

GED, No ACT or SAT Requirements
No GPA, and no extracurricular requirements either. If you have them, it won't hurt, but they're not necessary.

Benefits including Medical and a Pension
We offer great healthcare benefits and a retirement plan. You can even earn college credits during some of our courses.

Interested in learning more about our apprenticeship program? Send an email to nmanthei@fti-um.org, or check us out online at FTIUM.edu.

Trades We Serve

Commercial and Industrial Painting

- Painters apply paint, stain, varnish, and other finishes to residential, commercial wallcoverings and industrial structures. They are able to choose the right paint or finish for the surface to be covered by taking into account durability, ease of handling, method of application and customer desires. Some painting projects require an artistic touch and an appreciation of interior design.

Drywall Finishing

- Drywall finishers (or tapers) prepare unfinished interior drywall panels for painting by taping and finishing joints and imperfections. Using the wide, flat tip of a special trowel, drywall finishers spread joint compound into and along each side of the
joint between two hung drywall panels and use a paper tape to cover the seams between panels, resulting in a uniform and almost perfect surface.

Glazing

- Glaziers (or glassworkers) are responsible for selecting, cutting, installing and replacing all types of glass used in construction. Residential glazing involves work such as replacing and installing glass in home windows and installing mirrors, shower doors and bathtub enclosures. On commercial interior projects, glaziers often fit glass for tabletops and display cases and install decorative glass walls, storefront windows and security windows. Glaziers also work on the glass exteriors of large commercial buildings like the IDS building in downtown Minneapolis.

Sign and Display/Convention worker

- As a Sign and Display-Tradeshow Worker, you will be part of a service trade that puts on meetings and events around the world. Sign and Display-Tradeshow Workers build and install all the signage and display apparatus for trade shows, conventions and special events from floor to ceiling.

Construction Projects

There are lots of construction projects going on right now or beginning soon!

Here are a few of them:

- US Bank Stadium
- Mall of America Expansion
- Destination Medical Center (Rochester, MN)
- University of Minnesota
- Magellan Tower
- SW Light Rail Transit
- MN State Capitol Restoration
- Hamline Avenue Station
- And many, many more