

An Interview with Masonry Association of Florida Apprentice Training Graduate, James Yates



James Yates (*pictured left*) graduated from the MAF Treasure Coast Chapter Masonry Apprentice Program at Indian River State College. Employed by Oceanside Masonry (Jupiter, FL) for the past two years, James currently holds the position of superintendent.

James was interviewed about his experience with the masonry apprenticeship program by Julio Vazquez of the Masonry Apprentice Foundation. Julio serves as the Apprentice Representative for the Southeast and Treasure Coast area. Contact Julio at 561-400-6345 or by email julio@masonryeducation.org

James: *Thank you for letting me share with others the benefits of masonry apprentice training. The program has improved my life and I am proud to share my experience in hopes of improving other's lives. The program has offered so much to my family and I'm very grateful.*

Julio: **How has the apprenticeship program benefited your Life?**

James: *What I gained from the Masonry Apprenticeship Program has changed my life forever. What I learned can never be taken away. I have a career that I can use to support my family. Masonry is one of the oldest trades and it will always be a need in society. I gained a lot of skills, experience and qualifications from the Masonry Apprenticeship Program, all of which are really valuable in the field and that is what most employers are looking for.*

Julio: **How has the Apprenticeship program improved your work ethics?**

James: *The Masonry Apprenticeship Program definitely improved my work ethic by helping me to take pride in my projects. I have an added confidence because I received an outstanding education and learned a trade that I can take anywhere. It most definitely was a life-changing experience! There is nothing like being able to help build a masonry structure that will last countless generations to come.*

Julio: **How has it prepared you for Construction? Experience?**

James: *The classroom training helped me to understand and read blueprints on the job. I learned about safe construction procedures, and the hands-on skill of laying brick and block in class helped me to be comfortable and confident building structures on the job. I can work without doubting what I do. That is invaluable to me.*

Julio: How was the Curriculum and the Instructors?

James: *The curriculum was thorough and it was presented in a very easy to apply way. In short, we learned how to read blueprints, estimate jobs, safety and the different materials used in the field. The Instructors have a lifetime of knowledge and current applications in the masonry field.*

Julio: Any recommendations or advice for someone looking to get in the Apprenticeship?

James: *I encourage everyone who is thinking of joining the apprenticeship program to do so. It will improve your life and your families' lives as well. It's such a rewarding and proud feeling to be able to build a structure that will stand for decades to come. You will have gained a skill/trade that will never go away and one that you can support a family with. The Masonry Apprenticeship Training I received has changed my life and it can do the same for you.*

For more information about Masonry Apprentice Programs, please visit our website: www.masonryeducation.org