

## High School Graduate Offered Career As Electrician

Justin Ford: Class of 2018  
Cornerstone Health + Technology High School



Justin Ford smiles as he loosens his purple tie. He is enthusiastic about his time at Cornerstone Health + Technology High School. He struggled with his grades early on, but found that working with his hands sparked a new passion and drive for him. "When I was a child I always wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to help people. That's always been my goal and I thought medicine was the way to go." During his time spent at Cornerstone High School, he was exposed to several career options, and eventually found inspiration when he began working with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). "I hadn't really been exposed to a career in skilled trades before attending Cornerstone. I never thought about being an electrician, but then, during my pre-apprenticeship, I realized I really enjoy electrical work and I am good at it." His proudest moment during his time with ABC was when the students were given an assignment to wire a wall on their own. Justin not only wired his wall successfully, but also assisted fellow students when they encountered troubles or had questions. "Because that's what I love to do! Help people!" Justin laughs.

Being in the Career Pathways program helped Justin to grow in leadership and achieve better grades in school overall. He really came alive once he joined the electrical career path and is recognized as a leader amongst other students in the program.

In addition to the industry connections that the Health + Technology High School offers the students, the staff at Cornerstone is also active in helping students discover their path. "I like a lot of things, so I didn't know what career I wanted to pursue at first. Cornerstone exposed me to options that I had not thought of before. Once I figured out that I liked doing electrical work, the pre-apprenticeship with ABC really gave me something to look forward to after school. While at Cornerstone, I took a manufacturing class that included electrical courses and that really expanded my knowledge." Justin proudly shows off the OSHA certificate that he received after going through the technical training successfully.

Immediately following his graduation, Justin will begin a career with Consolidated Electric on a job site in downtown Detroit. "If I do well this summer, and I know I will, I will take more classes and eventually become a journeyman electrician. My dad is proud of me and my family knows that this can grow into something big, a career that will allow me to plan for my future."

Justin continues: "For Cornerstone to give students an opportunity to find their passion and a career goal is a big deal and I am thankful."