



FLUOR Stories



My Journey to Becoming the Nation's Top Craft Instructor

Fluor Story Submitted by: Clemon Prevost, Electrical Trade Instructor, Fluor's U.S. Gulf Coast Craft Training Center, Pasadena, Texas

It all began with Christmas lights and a TV repair

I began my journey to becoming Craft Instructor of the Year during ride in the back seat of my mother's car on a fun-filled Christmas night 55 years ago. My curiosity got the best of me when I saw a house in a neighboring town covered in bright lights. "Who lives there?" I asked my mom. "An electrician," she replied.

Six years later another monumental event came when my father called the "TV man" to repair our family's RCA television. When the TV man removed the cover off the back of the television, I was mesmerized by the extreme brightness emitting off of the vacuum tubes. After the repair was done, I saw my father paying the TV man one third of his hard-earned weekly pay. Something clicked in my head, and I thought, "That's what I want to be, a TV man."

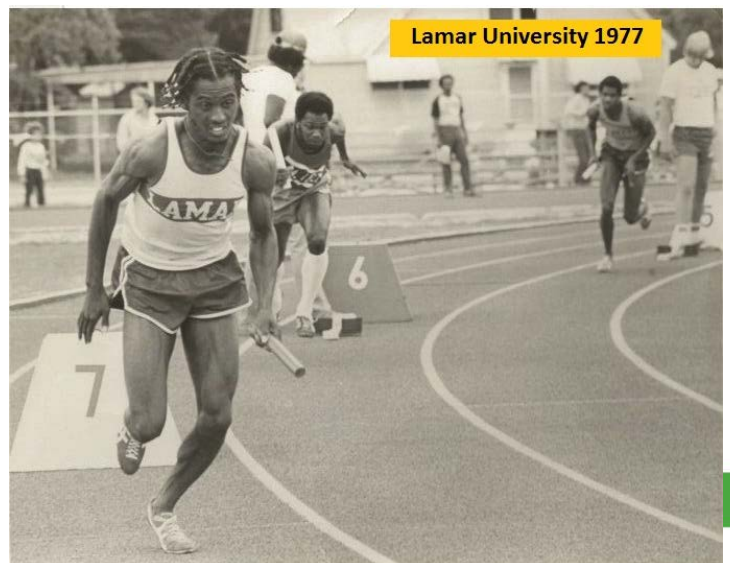
Little did I know, this curiosity would be the beginning of my journey to becoming an electronics technician, instrumentation technician, electrician, serial inventor and ultimately a craft instructor.

My first taste of construction

My first taste of construction came at an early age. I was still in my teens when I had a chance to work on my first summer weekend contractor job. My hometown, Texas City, Texas, is host to a five-mile stretch of refining and chemical sites. I got an opportunity to work on an environmental project digging trenches with a shovel and operating a Jack Hammer. The pay was much more than minimum wage and I felt a sense of accomplishment from seeing what I achieved. However, this labor-intensive experience re-enforced my desire to seek training, certifications or a degree to reach my goal to become an industrial electrician.

I graduated from Texas City High School in 1974. I was an outstanding track and field athlete and had an opportunity to lead at an early age as one of the team captains and track MVP. I was honored to receive the Fighting Heart award of all sports. I was even the 440-yard dash and 220-yard dash record holder!

I enrolled in the local community college soon after graduation where I was part of a four-man track team at College of the Mainland. I graduated with an AAS degree in electronics technology. From



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there, I accepted a track scholarship at Lamar University to run the quarter mile and pursue a degree in industrial technology. I was a member of the record setting two-mile relay.

Entering the workforce

In late 1977, I decided to join the workforce to take advantage of the opportunities my education could provide. I began working at United States Steel in Baytown, Texas, starting as an apprentice and working my way up to Craftsmanship status by the age of 24. In fact, I became the youngest Craftsman in US Steel's history.

While employed at US Steel, I invented the automatic cut-off switch for Linde and Lincoln welding machines. This invention created a safer work environment for the welders at US Steel. Thanks to inventions like this one, I currently hold four mechanical US Patents.

I try my best to utilize my experience, my US patents, educational back ground, competitive athletic roles, craft skills, teaching skills, and out-of-the-box creative thinking to motivate anyone with whom I come in contact.

Transitioning to teaching

After six years of employment as an electronics repairman, I resigned from US Steel in 1983, primarily because of the collapse of the steel industry. I shortly gained employment as an I&E technician at the Amoco Refinery in Texas City, Texas. I retired after 27 years of service. My most cherished accomplishment from this time was being one of the founding fathers of the first apprenticeship program in Amoco\BP Texas City's history. My role was to manage the Electrical, Instrumentation, Pipefitting, and Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship programs.

My inventions did not stop with US Steel though. I was a co-inventor of the steam turbine calibrator, and the inventor of the turbine overspeed bolt trip circuit utilized by the machinist group at Amoco. The turbine calibrator was dubbed "TMC1000" or "Terry, Mike and Clem 1000."



UNITED STATES STEEL (TEXAS WORKS PIPE MILL) 1979

REWARD FOR THE INVENTION OF THE AUTOMATIC CUTT OFF SWITCH FOR
LINCOLN AND LINDE WELDING MACHINES

Amoco 1984

Invention of the (TMC 1000) Terry, Mike & Clem Turbin Calibrator





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In fact, I was the first person in the world to put the new, state-of-the-art General Motors LS1 engine in the rear of a Porsche 911 and make it work. I even received a patent for the rear-wing cooling system! Since doing so, I've had the opportunity to share this invention with local high school students, as I encouraged them in their studies.



Shortly after retirement from Amoco Texas City\BP Refinery, I joined the staff at Remington College in 2013. There, I taught Instrumentation and electrical. I was honored to receive exceptional reviews, high student attendance, and outstanding student retention rates.

Moving to Fluor

In 2015, I was invited to take a look at Fluor's training plan for the U.S. Gulf Coast Training Center in Pasadena, Texas. The Training Center was to be built from the ground up, and I knew that if I took this job, I could be instrumental in being part of creating a productive learning environment. It was an exciting opportunity, and I

accepted the position of senior talent development specialist. In this role I became certified in NCCER Core, Level I & II Electrical, and Instrumentation Level I & II. These certifications qualified me to take on the exciting role of Electrical Craft Instructor.

Fluor's facility at the U.S. Gulf Coast Training Center is the perfect setting for learning, and this is the best job I have ever had. The trainees give you instant appreciation and gratification and the leadership at Fluor is second to none.

I truly believe that you must first build a responsible person with character, respect and integrity before you can build a "craft professional." Employability skills are a priority in my repertoire of instruction, and my favorite subjects to teach are employability skills series/parallel circuits, AC theory and ELI the ICE man. The later subjects promote critical thinking, which is a requirement to be a successful, safe and a productive craft person. The employability classes enhance the trainees' ability to retain employment. Other benefits include problem solving and safe work practices – both of which are much needed in today's construction work environment.



Accepting my Craft Instructor of the Year certificate





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Service in the community

Beyond my dedication to the students I teach at the training center, community service is also very important to me. I served a six-year term as an At Large College Board of Trustee at my alma mater College of the Mainland. I was also recently inducted in the Hall of Honor at Texas City High School for my outstanding contributions to community service.

Community service is a priority of mine because it gives me the opportunity to communicate and share my life experiences with others. Community service also allows me to lead by example and instill compassion and hope for a bright future in those who are less fortunate than me.



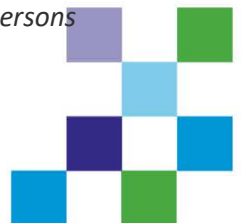
**Mentoring Starts at Home
U of H Graduation 2006
Clemon P. Prevost Jr.**

The Nation's Top Craft Instructor

This year, I was honored to be named the 2019 Craft Instructor of the Year by Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

I am so thankful to ABC, the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) and Tradesman International for their sponsorship for this prestigious award. What an honor to represent what work-force development is all about, which is helping others to succeed through merit-shop craft training.

This prestigious title given to me "Nation's Top Craft Instructor of the Year" will be a life-long lasting motivation to keep me steadfast in providing our workforce with responsible, highly skilled craft persons





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of integrity. This will help ensure we close the gap in meeting the shortage of skilled craft persons in our local communities and throughout the U.S. and abroad.



Learn More

- Read more about the award on OneFluor [here](#).
- Watch a video from ABC that shares more about my story.
- Read a feature in the May issue of Construction Executive Magazine about me [here](#).

