



Chris Biondi

**Training Director
Washington DC Joint
Plumbing Apprenticeship Committee
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Chris Biondi has 23 years in the construction industry. At age four, he watched his family and neighbors complete his childhood home after a contractor absconded with his parents' construction fund. At age 26, after attempts at earning a degree, and just before completing his teaching certification, he left academia for carpentry and spent six months building custom homes outside Annapolis, Maryland. Chris found his way to union plumbing via Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5. In 2003, he joined the apprenticeship, and he found the education challenging, fun, and relatable. As a second-year apprentice, he was asked to run work at Georgetown University. After starting his fourth year, he was brought into his company's office to learn virtual design and construction (VDC, formerly called BIM or CAD), and eventually found himself running that department. Upon graduation of the apprenticeship as a licensed journey plumber, he began teaching at his former apprenticeship and accepted a union officer position. Teaching continuously, and after becoming a nationally certified piping instructor, he was invited in January of 2020 to become training director of the apprenticeship from which he graduated. After guiding the apprenticeship through the pitfalls of the COVID-19 years, he has (with the help of a stellar staff) grown the apprenticeship from an intake of 67 in 2019 to a starting class of 160 for the 2025/26 school year. Class offerings and retention are up, and thanks to his background in education, apprenticeship is run more like college, with electives and an expanding curriculum offered to both apprentices and journeyworkers.