



Hali Wyatt was born and raised in New Orleans, LA. She moved to Floyd, VA when she was 16 years old. Hali grew up wanting to be an English teacher or a veterinarian. She enrolled at New River Community college to lay the foundation for her career. As she was taking entry-level coursework for education and medicine she became curious about the building trades. Serendipitously she enrolled in an elective welding class and that opened many doors for her. She learned about a process whereby metal is heated to the point of melting, and shaped mold. It was in this class her passion for welding was sparked. A friend of hers, that was an apprentice in the program, said to her “You should look into the Registered Apprenticeship program with the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 10.”

Miss Wyatt came to an open applicants’ tryout for apprentices at the Roanoke school where she showcased her skills and determination to learn the trade all day and impressed the instructors. She was impressed with the structure of the program allowing for paid apprenticeship and classes to learn the content.

Hali has also been impressed with the benefits that are afforded to her through her union membership. All apprentices are paid on a scale, with a guaranteed raise every six months. Additionally, apprentices and journeymen alike share the same benefits from the beginning with healthcare benefits for themselves and their families as part of a membership benefit, prescription drug coverage, and a pension and an annuity to save for retirement. When Miss Wyatt compared the benefits she felt that the Plumbers and Steamfitters gave her the career she wanted with the training she needed.

Hali is currently on her third year of the apprenticeship program where she works for a union contractor based in Roanoke, but has worked for multiple contractors on different projects throughout the state of Virginia. Hali currently works for a national contractor in the HVAC field; Johnson Controls Inc. Hali has the maturity and perseverance to serve as a role model to apprentices, and especially to women looking into the trades.