



P.O. Box 6783
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 690-9049
www.virginiamasonry.org
vma@virginiamasonry.org

August 29, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Virginia Masonry Association Launches New Masonry Apprenticeship Training Program

The Virginia Masonry Association (VMA) is excited to announce its new Masonry Apprenticeship Training Program. On July 18, 2019, members of the Virginia Masonry Association met with representatives from the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) who approved VMA's proposal for its apprenticeship program curriculum.

The Virginia Masonry Association is an organization composed of masonry contractors and manufacturers that promote masonry construction in central Virginia by providing a source of education for trade school programs, architects, contractors, and homeowners.

Workforce development is a growing concern for all building trades, and masonry is no exception. With the average age of masons increasing in every recent year, the industry needs to increase recruitment and training efforts substantially. VMA partnered with DOLI to create a certificate program that is expected to draw and excite potential masons for its attainability and financial reward.

The VMA Masonry Apprenticeship Training Program allows one to complete the program in as little as 2.5 years while working full-time for a qualified masonry contractor. Apprentices with previous masonry education or experience may have the opportunity to bypass some of the classroom related instruction. This competency-based program allows for a heavier focus to be placed on hands-on training while on-the-job (OJT) rather than on the number of hours spent in a classroom.

Upon completion of the program, Apprentices will receive Masonry Certification from the Department of Labor and Industry, which is recognized nationally, as well as certification from the Virginia Masonry Association, and will begin earning a Journeyman Bricklayer's full wage. For more information, please visit www.VirginiaMasonry.org.

