

Construction Industry Exempt From Department of Labor's Final Apprenticeship Rule

The Department of Labor published its final rule on Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) in March, exempting the construction industry, a move supported by the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) and the Iron Workers. Apprenticeships that train workers for construction jobs may continue to participate in the separate Registered Apprenticeship Program.

IRAPs are meant to address America's skills gap and expand the apprenticeship model to new industries. The rule establishes a process for recognizing Standards Recognition Entities (SREs), qualified third-party entities, which would work with employers to establish, recognize and monitor industry programs that provide apprenticeships.

Anton Ruesing, director of the IUPAT's



↑ Apprenticeships that train workers for construction jobs may continue to participate in the separate Registered Apprenticeship Program rather than the new IRAP.

Giroux Glass Opens New Location in Arizona

In response to a heightened level of construction activity currently taking place in Arizona, glazing contractor Giroux Glass has expanded its reach to the state by opening a new location in Phoenix. While the physical location is new, the company has had a business license in the state since 2007 when it provided glazing for the Grand Canyon Skywalk.

The new facility is more than 5,000 square feet and will offer the same glass and metal panel work offered by Giroux at its other locations in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Fresno, Calif. The company plans to expand into other specialty work as it increases its field labor pool. Its new facility has the ability to leverage other Giroux Glass facilities' resources and crews as well.

"Conversations and planning for expansion into Arizona have been ongoing since 2014. As with any decision to expand, overall assessment of our business and the timing of the project were of top priority. Between 2014 and 2017, our main focus was to build out a top-notch team in other locations and transition into 100% employee ownership. We successfully made those transitions and moved forward with expansion into Arizona only after we re-evaluated the market and positioned the right team to lead it," says CEO Nataline Lomedico.

The company is holding off on securing additional fabrication space until it has enough large-scale projects to warrant a move to a larger facility. However, company leadership plans to expand to a bigger, more centrally-located property in the near future. The Phoenix office will service the entire state, but its primary focus will be on the major metro areas of Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff.

Marty McKinley is the new location's general manager and Duane Stanley is project manager.



↑ From left: Giroux director of finance Haik Khatchatrian; CEO and president Nataline Lomedico; COO Stephanie Lamb; project manager Duane Stanley; and general manager Marty McKinley.