

Bellingham's APWA Mechanic Champion:
TREVOR BOSMAN (Maintenance Mechanic IV)

Trevor Bosman didn't know what to expect when his boss recommended him for the 2016 APWA Mechanics Competition. But he found out pretty quickly – and has been reaping the benefits ever since.

With a lifelong interest in vehicles and their maintenance, Trevor has been doing work he loves for a decade with the City of Bellingham – mostly maintaining fire engines. Being good at his work doesn't necessarily mean he was excited about competing. But after taking a qualifying online exam, Trevor trekked from Bellingham to Spokane to demonstrate how well he knows tools and his craft. Among other things, Trevor was able to identify mechanic's tools – including some that have been out of service since before he even started working in the field. He also diagnosed why a vehicle wouldn't run and did the repairs that got it going

Trevor's hands-on practical ability and his knowledge of tools and vehicles was a winning combination: he took the top award for mechanics at the American Public Works Association (APWA) competition. And the best was yet to come.

His prize for winning wasn't just the satisfaction of success – he was also awarded a free week of training, Electrical systems diagnostics EDS-102 taught by Neal Pulley which he completed at NC Caterpillar Training Center Seattle.

“That was great, training can be expensive” said Trevor. “And what I had the chance to learn is useful in my daily work.”

Asked if he would recommend the APWA Mechanics competition to others, Trevor said yes. “It reinforces what you're good at, and helps you dig back in your memory banks” for skills you've learned but maybe not practiced lately.

And asked if there was something that might make the competition better? “More competitors!”

submitted by AMY CLOUD
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