

Meet Our Instructors



Roland Alvarez



Lee Ann Bultema



Bill Cameon



Mike Daly



Dave Dolak



Leila Edwards



Joe Hynek



Eric Lambert



Dale Meiners



Nick Nash



Bill Needles



Dave Potesta



Bill Staniec



Rich Wold



Roland Alvarez

Appliance Repair Instructor

Roland Alvarez has been fixing household appliances a long time – ever since he was a teen. His parents didn't believe in allowances, so early on he found a job to have some walk around money. His first job? Helping out at an appliance repair shop. He liked the work so much that he continued in that field getting certifications that would help him as an appliance repair professional.

Roland is a business owner operator who runs his appliance sales and repair business in Hammond. That's where you will take his class if you ever want to learn to fix your dryer, refrigerator, washer, or any other household appliance. Roland has a long history with JobLink, too. He's been teaching with us and at ICD learning sites since the 1990s.



Lee Ann Bultema

Gardening / Landscaping Instructor

LeeAnn Bultema is co-owner of Windmill Acres in Beecher Illinois, along with her husband Bruce. Both are fourth generation farmers. We start in January seeding, propagating and planting thousands of perennials, annuals, baskets, vegetables and herbs opening to the public from late April to July 1st. Then we turn around our whole operation for fall. From September to November we run a pumpkin farm hosting school groups and educating thousands of children about agriculture. This includes sixteen fun activities for the school children and the public alike.

Lee Ann's attention to detail and creativity combined with her lifelong horticulture experience offers a combination of beauty with nature. In 2015 a class under her instruction at JobLink created an existing butterfly garden on Michigan Ave which we continue to maintain to this day. She hopes to inspire students to fill their life with living creations to show how easily beauty can be incorporated into our everyday lives and spark creativity as well as understanding the importance of growing and maintaining our own food sources. Check the Bultema's operation at www.windmillacres.com or on Facebook—Windmill Acres Greenhouse.



Bill Cameon

Metalworking, Plumbing, Electrical
and Construction Instructor

Bill is a retired Steelworker with 38 years at LTV where he worked in the Line Shop primarily as an electrician. He is also an electrical contractor and general contractor licensed in Northwest Indiana and several communities in Illinois. Previously an electrical inspector in Highland, Indiana, Bill has been instructing classes in several facets of building trades for ICD learning centers across Northwest Indiana and has been an instructor at Joliet Junior College in Illinois.

Bill has two daughters and three grandchildren and lives in Highland, Indiana. He has been involved in many volunteer projects throughout NW Indiana, most notably doing the wiring with steelworkers on Habitat for Humanity homes.



Mike Daly

Small Engine Maintenance and Repair Instructor

Mike started building his skill set more than three decades ago. During his high school years, he would attend auctions and sales to buy used lawn equipment. Despite using service manuals while attempting to repair different machines, many of them ended up in the garbage. However, Mike learned something about each piece of equipment.

In his sophomore year, he took a small engine class at a repair shop in Gary. This class answered many questions for Mike and his success rate for repairing outdoor equipment increased dramatically.

After high school, he landed a job at an outdoor equipment dealership. Mike attended many factory service schools and update seminars for the industry. He attended Purdue University, pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering technology. His studies were put on hold when he took a job at a manufacturing plant as a CNC operator.

In 1996, Mike discovered an opportunity to teach classes in the repair of outdoor equipment. He replied to an ad in a local paper and started teaching shortly thereafter. Mike is currently an independent contractor who provides classes at many career development sites throughout NW Indiana. He has taught classes as far west as Freeport, Illinois and as far east as Woodburn, Indiana. Mike says that considering how technical the field of outdoor equipment repair is, an individual can be exposed to it for 30 years and still learn something new every day.



Dave Dolak

Lutherie Instructor (String Instrument Construction)

David Dolak is a scientist, musician, luthier, and outdoorsman. He grew up in Hammond and has worked a variety of careers including steelworker, consultant, scientist at Argonne National Laboratory and college professor. Since 1999 he has worked full-time at Columbia College Chicago where he teaches the course “The Physics of Musical Instruments.” He apprenticed as a luthier in the shop of Osman Tilev and since 1988 has built a wide variety of string instruments including guitars, ukuleles, and dulcimers. He is also an active musician as a guitarist and singer. He is a hiker and camper and has ridden his bicycle solo across the United States and around the Great Lakes.



Leila Edwards

Stained Glass, Mosaics and Glass Fusing Instructor

Leila Edwards, a native of Chicago, Illinois, was raised in an artistic family. At an early age Leila was exposed to many forms of art including; pottery, photography, painting with oils, and sewing. As a child Leila was very active in the arts; during high school she designed and produced a line of formal wear.

Leila decided to pursue a professional career in psychology and attended DePaul University. Although psychology was not her first love, her psychological studies did prove beneficial to her career as an artist. After acknowledging that her passion lay in the field of design, she went on to attend the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago, Illinois where she earned a B.F.A. in fashion design. While working as a fashion designer, Leila continued to expand her horizons by taking classes in fused glass, stained glass, and metal art clay. She sees fabric and glass at opposite ends of the art spectrum, but is passionate about both.

Leila now lives in Northwest Indiana and specializes in fashion design, stained glass, and jewelry design. After teaching in the fashion design department at the International Academy of Design for 14 years, she currently dividing her time by teaching for JobLink, creating her own artwork and working at the restaurant she, her young son Ben and her husband, a Local 1010 steelworker, have opened in Miller Beach.



Joe Hynek

MTE, Bicycle Repair and Auto Detail Instructor

Joe comes to JobLink after 30 years of experience at the 80” Hot Strip.

He worked his career there as an MTE, so he has firsthand experience to share with his MTE students. He teaches that class in the Live and Online system that allows students to watch classes online as well as participate in live classes at JobLink.

Joe has many talents and skills, one of which involves bikes. He is an avid biker and has worked in bike repair on the outside. Additionally, he’s a guitarist and vocalist in a band—something he’s done for years.

As a steelworker, Joe took many classes at JobLink because he’s the kind of person who will never stop learning and improving his skills.



Eric Lambert

Guitar Instructor

Eric Lambert has been performing and teaching guitar for over thirty years. He has taught and performed in schools, park districts, churches, concert halls, and festivals in at least eight countries and most of the United States.

Eric Lambert has been teaching guitar at Job Link and Leon Lynch for over ten years. His mantra? “Have fun, play guitar.”



Dale Meiners

Woodworking Instructor

Dale Meiners is an artist, artisan, furniture maker, and designer. Meiners, the creative, has enjoyed most of his life in the Arts.

He studied music composition prior to founding the pre-Smashing Pumpkins band The Marked with Billy Corgan. He then met and nurtured folk artist Wesley Willis, presenting his first art show at Meiners' gallery The Love Loft in Chicago's budding Wicker Park neighborhood. Recording and touring followed with highlights including tours and releases with Sublime, articles in Entertainment magazine and appearances on MTV.

Dale also used this time traveling to visit nearly every art museum in the country, being especially moved by Egon Schiele's masterpiece in Minneapolis, Dali's "Lincoln in Dalivision" in Sarasota, Klimt and Van Gogh's 2 sided painting in New York, and Picasso's blue guitarist here in Chicago.

This experience provided a foundation for his utilitarian direction which he later translated into a unique design style: reduced details, clean lines, and flowing materials creating a visually enticing style of furniture. In addition to Trimline, Dale also teaches furniture design and fabrication techniques.



Nick Nash

MTM / Home Remodeling Instructor

Nick graduated from Griffith High School in 1974 and started working for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Company. After being laid-off that December he was fortunate enough to hire in at Inland on January 24, 1975 and retire 30 years later in 2005. While at Inland he enrolled in as many of the wonderful classes at Joblink as he could. Nick took everything from A to Z including: computers, carpentry, woodworking, and just about everything in between. He has a ground school certificate and private pilot's license that he earned with the help of Joblink.

Just before retiring Nick got a certificate in real estate and held a real estate license for a couple of years. In May 2009 he received a Bachelors degree from I.U.N. and started instructing classes at Joblink two weeks later. So far he has instructed several classes at Joblink including classes such as hands-on home repair and improvement, windows and doors, and kitchens and baths. He has also been instructing the MTM course for those interested in becoming mechanics in the mill—just like he was!



Bill Needles

Computer Information Technology Instructor

About PC-Plus!, LLC: After a successful corporate career Bill recognized a need to provide quality technology instruction to students at every stage of life. To meet this need D&B Ventures was formed in 2003. In just a few months, using the strengths of his past corporate career, Bill expanded D&B Ventures to include technology design and delivery services. D&B Ventures became PC-Plus!, LLC in August of 2004. PC-Plus!, LLC is also the parent corporation of Calumet Partners, Highland Computer Shop and Region Technology. We can provide the right technology solution for you.

Bill Needles, CEO & President: Bill has 25+ years of computer design and information technology experience and holds multiple United States Patents and certifications in advanced computer technology development. Prior to obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas, Bill was a steelworker and USWA union steward at Blaw Knox and also worked at US Steel South Works in Chicago. Bill moved on to a career in high-tech and advanced to serve as Chief Information Officer and Vice President of Information Systems at Fortune 500 corporations and the Chief Technology Officer at a startup. He also served as Chief Quality Officer for Western Digital and its Singapore and Malaysia operations. He has owned and worked with computers since 1980, is a licensed baseball umpire and former NHRA race car owner and driver. Bill is married to Teresa; they have three children and now live in Northwest Indiana.

Since 2004 Bill has personally trained over 1,000 USW students from multiple locations in the United States.



Dave Potesta

Yoga Instructor

Dave has been teaching yoga since 2001. He was first interested in yoga because of health problems—carpal tunnel. He was experiencing severe numbness in hands and fingers plus shoulder pain. He was told that yoga is a holistic form of therapy. After six months of yoga, and without any medical intervention, his carpal tunnel disappeared. Joint and arthritis issues were common in his family, so he figured yoga would be a great lifelong practice.

He took it beyond practice and became certified. Within a year, he was teaching full time—25 classes a week. He's been at JobLink since 2014 and the number of classes he offers here has grown along with the popularity of his classes.



Bill Staniec

Photography Instructor

Bill worked in the steel industry for well over 38 years. His father was a steel worker for more than 43 years. In fact, his childhood home still stands just outside of where the South Works plant of United States Steel once stood.

His steel mill experience includes working at Republic Steel Chicago, United States Steel, South Works and finally Inland Steel, now ArcelorMittal. He has always worked in the visual field at USS and Inland supervising the photography and graphics sections at each company. While at Republic Steel, he was a diesel locomotive engineer. That was a great job for a kid just out of high school. He has been teaching at JobLink for well over ten years. Over the past years he has also held photography classes at US Steel, Burns Harbor and Leon Lynch. He enjoys sharing his photographic experience with students wanting to learn more about photography.

Aside from teaching, he owns and operates a successful freelance photography and video production business. My clients include; Amtrak, Chicago Public Schools, Alliant Food Service, Pangere Corporation, NiSource, most of the steel companies in NW Indiana and many other companies and steel related magazines.



Rich Wold

Real Estate, Home Remodeling Tips Instructor

Rich Wold retired from Arcelormittal at the end of 2013 with over 40 years of work history. He spent his early years in the mill working in the mechanical department on rail cars, while pursuing a degree in accounting. He decided accounting wasn't for him and tried some of the apprenticeships available from the mill at that time. He started the diesel machinist and electrical apprenticeships and ended up completing the Instrument Service apprenticeship, and then starting working in the Process Control computer group. In 1984, with the help of Joblink, he became a licensed realtor and also took ITA's home inspection training class. In 2008 he started his own real estate brokerage company.

Over the years he's taken advantage of the many excellent classes at Joblink and hopes to pass on as much as he can of what he's learned over the years. Rich now teaches the real estate classes and home maintenance classes at JobLink.