



DOUG DRYSDALE

2014 APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

SPOTLIGHT

On Doug Drysdale:

Title Job Foreman for Reilly Glass & Glazing (Norristown, PA)

Hometown Pine Valley Section of Philadelphia, PA

Family Married with two daughters - ages 3 and 5

Congratulations! The Drysdale Family welcomed third daughter Brynn Scarlett in January. AGI wishes the Drysdale Family best wishes!



ABOUT DOUG

Doug Drysdale started his glazing career in 2009 at age 29. He immediately took the job and its responsibilities seriously. During his apprenticeship, Doug served as class steward and was involved with the student union as secretary and vice president. His efforts and commitment paid off; Doug was running projects as a third-year apprentice and in 2014 was named Apprentice of the Year.

Today, Doug serves as a foreman for Reilly Glass & Glazing, leading commercial work with an emphasis on malls. He also teaches part-time at the Finishing Trades Institute (FTI), explaining he stays involved because "They took care of me, so I want to give back."

ADVICE FOR APPRENTICES

Doug credits two important things that keep him motivated: seeing the end product of his hard work in any finished project and the sense of family in the union. "I'm extremely happy," Doug says. "It's hands-down the best decision I've made to be a part of FTI and this local."

Doug points to terrific work that speaks for itself and the support of guys like Matt Fox, Mike Schurr, and Joe McGee (all of FTI). He would advise any apprentice or young person considering a career as a glazier to look at all of the opportunities available, from additional certifications to strong friendships.



FAVORITE PROJECTS

Doug had just completed his apprenticeship in 2013 when he was able to work on two exciting projects. The Cabela's retail store at the Christiana Mall in Newark, Del., offered a lot of glazing variety. However, it was Doug's experience at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Independence Mall in Philadelphia that really impacted him. He worked closely with two German glaziers who came to the U.S. to construct the artifact cases. Doug calls it one of the coolest projects he's done because he was able to see the European style and method of glazing coming together.

VARIETY & OPPORTUNITY

Doug's passion for glazing combined with his go-getter attitude have positioned him for variety and opportunities in his career. He was recently sent to Connecticut as a Pennsylvania representative for DC 21 where he was trained in the German Schüco glazing system that will soon be available in the U.S. Doug's participation in the program will enable him to train local journeymen and apprentices in how to work with the system.

Doug has also been involved as an instructor for AGI's Architectural Glass Boot Camp, an interactive instructional program for AIA Philadelphia's architects and associate members. Boot Camp reinforces the importance of collaboration and communication by providing an opportunity for design professionals and apprentice glaziers to work together.

Now in the trade for seven years, Doug still enjoys getting up and going to work every morning. He attributes this to his level of care and attention to detail in his work and also to his easygoing personality. He makes an effort to communicate frequently and directly with glaziers who are younger and older. He prides himself on his work ethic for "getting it done and getting it done right."

Most importantly, Doug advocates a safety-first mentality and is quick to point out if another guy isn't wearing his safety glasses or equipment. "It's always better to have two good eyes at the end of the day," he says with a laugh.

WHAT'S NEXT

Doug hopes to continue his education to earn a bachelor's degree in project management, but he knows glazing is where he'll remain long-term.

"I say every day, treat this like a family and care about your end product. This isn't a paycheck. It's a career." - Doug Drysdale

"I know I will be a part of the glaziers for the rest of my life." - Doug Drysdale



Above: Doug instructing students at AGI's Architectural Glass Boot Camp; below: Doug with his wife Erin and daughters Julia and Reagan

