

According to Eric, the greatest return on the investment of his time and talent is his ability to help his fellow union members keep pace with technology, stay relevant, and retool themselves for new careers in the trades using Autodesk products.

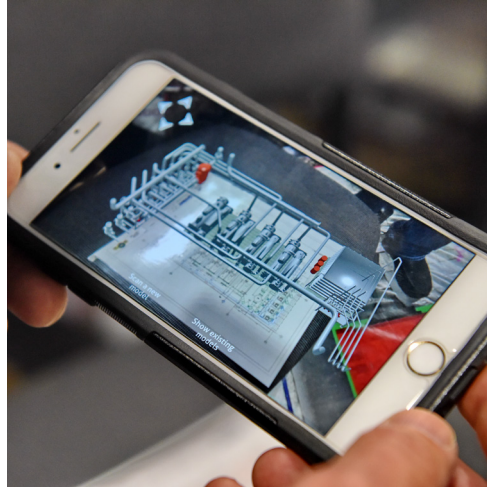
“That hospital job was one of the first in our jurisdiction to have a strict BIM requirement, and my contractor chose to partially outsource it.” Although Eric was not detailing on that project, he learned the importance of BIM and could see that many in the field were not yet ready for 3D modeling. He found that outsourcing the detailing could be the cause of the slow adoption of 3D modeling around him. “I was in the middle of the grumblings of the journeymen and foremen and realized why pipe trades journeymen should be detailing their own pipe!” After that job concluded, he was asked to detail, and within a few months he was the lead detailer. Greiner Brothers quickly went from outsourcing all BIM to an in-house mix of union and non-union detailers to phasing out non-union personnel altogether, moving to a complete Autodesk® Revit® software workflow. “We decided at the beginning of 2015 that we were no longer going to renew our PD3D (Trimble® PipeDesigner 3D®) licenses,” says Eric. Although the transition from legacy systems to Revit was not without its challenges, Eric has never looked back.

Eric graduated from the UA's Instructor Training Program (ITP) in 2014, and in 2015 he got his shot designing the UA's brand-new Utilizing Jobsite Technology course at ITP, where he teaches skilled craftspeople how to interact with technology as they move from the office to the field. “If one of our members is handed an iPad on the jobsite, we want them to have basic BIM 360 skills in reading digital blue prints, 3D models, layout points, and tracking punch lists and safety protocols.” Eric was also asked to help others learn to use Autodesk Revit. “I was happy to have the chance to help a fellow union member, Erik Lambrecht, create and teach the new Revit MEP course in 2016.” In 2017, Eric developed and taught the UA's new Advanced Autodesk Revit course at ITP.

Today, while continuing his full-time detailing job at Greiner Brothers, Eric trains UA technology trainers as well as rank-and-file members, including a mix of students right out of high school, young college graduates, 50-year-olds looking for a career change, and everyone in between.



Eric Posey (left) with Erik Lambrecht (right) using Oculus Rift with a UA training module



Greiner Brothers Inc. chiller plant Revit model converted into augmented reality

The Union also assists with job placement. The UA Local 440's goal is to make sure every student who comes through the training center is comfortable navigating a BIM model, extracting measurements and information from a model, and knowing what information they can ask their contractor's drafting department for in a pinch.

“Most of the students who take my courses are trying to add another skill to their arsenal and gain a better understanding of BIM.” The UA's large apprenticeship and BIM classes continue to rise in enrollment each year, preparing workers with an overview of the latest in technology on the jobsite—including fabrication, power tool technology, virtual and augmented reality, cloud and BIM 360 workflows, and jobsite gang boxes equipped for BIM.

According to Eric, the greatest return on the investment of his time and talent is his ability to help his fellow union members keep pace with technology, stay relevant in their careers, and in some cases, retool themselves for new careers in the trades using Autodesk products.

Eric's journey took him from student to practitioner to teacher. What began as a summer job before college has become a lifelong career merging his passion for technology with hands-on and real-world experience. He plans to continue working for Greiner and teaching for UA.

A Skilled Trades Organization becomes eligible for Autodesk's Membership Training Provider Program benefits after agreeing to the Program Agreement and terms, and upon authorization approval by Autodesk. [Learn more.](#)

Erik Lambrecht (UA Local 400, Appleton, Wisconsin), like Eric Posey, is one of the UA's next generation of highly technology-savvy members who are mentoring other UA trainers nationwide on BIM training programs. In addition to teaching Revit, Erik and his colleagues have begun introducing Autodesk BIM 360 into their jobsite technology training workflows, focusing on how BIM data can be used in the field.

A handful of Eric's students have gone on to become draftsmen, total station layout personnel, foremen, or superintendents on BIM projects.