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NEWS

Two new Apprentice Linemen join La Plata Electric Association *Training program is designed to build strong Operations team for the future*

DURANGO, Colo. – Justin Barnum and Michael Juliano have been named to the Apprentice Lineman program at La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), working toward earning their Journeyman Lineman and joining the profession responsible for constructing and maintaining electric power distribution lines and facilities.

Raised on a farm in Washington State, Justin Barnum worked as a Dish network technician and manager before attending Northwest Lineman College in Denton, Tex.

“I’d thought about being a lineman for quite a while,” said Barnum, who was pleased when the LPEA apprenticeship position opened up as his wife was born and raised in Bayfield.

Michael Juliano is a native of Bayfield and has spent the past nine years working for Hydro-X as a hydrovac operator, and ultimately operations manager.

“I’d done some work for La Plata through that, and it got me interested in being a lineman, seeing these guys at work,” said Juliano.

LPEA’s program is sanctioned by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as well as the Department of Labor. The four-year apprentice program includes 8000 working hours on-the-job, with mentor linemen in the field, as well as simultaneous scholastic study in the evenings, and written examinations.

“Employer-sponsored apprenticeship programs are the best educational and training tools our industry ever invented,” said Justin Talbot, LPEA manager of operations. “It’s an excellent process for perfecting the professional and highly-skilled work trades our industry requires.”

LPEA, celebrating 75 years in 2014, provides to its more than 30,000 members, with nearly 41,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible. For additional information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786. For further information, visit www.lpea.coop.

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