

# Plugged into a Career

An electrical construction & engineering class at Edison Academy gave Ron Zacharias the skills to work for an electrical contracting company—and Ron’s teacher (who also owned an electrical business) was impressed enough to hire Ron himself. “Without the guidance of my teacher—and now my boss—Steve Palese, I would never be in such a growing field,” says Ron.

Ron also earned a business degree from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), which broadened his career prospects even further. “The opportunities are endless with so many branches of the electrical trade—in a few years I hope to own my own company and hopefully retire before I’m 50!”

## **RON ZACHARIAS** Electrician

**High School:** Edison Academy/Robinson Secondary

**CTE Program Studied:** Electrical Technologies

**Additional Studies/Training:** NVCC (Business)

## Electrician

Electricians have skills that are both “portables” and in demand in many segments of the working world. Electricians can be employed either independently or in staff positions by electrical HVAC building contractors, by factories, and by institutions such as hospitals and schools. This versatility gives persons in the electrical field broad employment.

## Electives to take in high school

- Electrical Construction & Engineering I & II
- Construction Technologies I & II

## What to study after high school

Virginia’s community colleges offer a wealth of relevant courses. High school graduates may also enter the field through a registered apprenticeship program, conducted through the Department of Labor and Industry. In Virginia, electricians must be licensed; to become licensed, a person must demonstrate relevant work experience and pass an exam in electrical principles and building codes.