



WHAT ARE YOU UP FOR?

MY LIFE AS



A PIPEFITTER FOREMAN: MICHAEL REYES CANSECO

In many ways, Michael Reyes Canseco found himself when he found a career in construction. At Jacobs, he acquired the technical skills to advance, while on the job and at his own pace. He learned to step outside his comfort zone, with the encouragement of mentors. He pushed himself to delegate, to read people, to develop the expertise to lead. As he grew in his career, he says, he grew into the person he is today. He sees the benefits not only for himself, but also for his family.

Construction employed one out of every 13 workers in the Houston region in 2017. “The ability to lead people is what I notice as the difference between a craftsman and somebody who becomes a supervisor,” Michael said. “That’s also the difference between one level supervisor and another.”

REQUIREMENTS:

Industry certifications, such as NCCER; on-the-job training

SALARY:

\$56,000 to \$83,000

CAREER PATH:

Computer tech support specialist, laborer, pipefitter helper, pipefitter, pipefitter leadman, pipefitter foreman

ADVANCEMENT:

Pipefitter general foreman, pipefitting superintendent, construction manager, site manager/project manager, vice president of construction or maintenance, general manager

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

“Get a summer job and work hard. Get used to having a schedule. Get used to structure and routine,” Michael said. Leadership skills are crucial: Knowing how to gauge people’s strengths, so you can assign them to tasks at which they can be most proficient and effective. Being able to step outside of your comfort zone. Analytical thinking to develop solutions to complex problems.

KEY CAREER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Direct and motivate craft workers and apprentices who lay out, assemble, and install piping systems that carry water, steam, or other substances throughout a construction project. Plan the project work, assign it, and ensure it meets quality standards. Apply a knowledge of pipe systems and an understanding of blueprints to select the appropriate pipe type and size for a project. Adhere to drawing specifications. Enforce practices to provide for a safe workplace and make sure workers return safely to their families. Ensure workers follow state and local building codes.