



Meet Our HireLAX Instructors

HireLAX is very fortunate to have the incredible partnership with Los Angeles Southwest College and its construction instructors: Sergio Hernandez and Jesus Fernandez. Both have years of experience not just working in construction but running apprenticeship programs.

Q: What is the best part of teaching this program?

Sergio: Seeing the development of the students through only 8 weeks. It's so encouraging to see the growth, learning the things that are in their way to success and overcoming those obstacles. We get to help them see this whole world they know nothing about. They see people that look like them at apprenticeship tours and start to believe that this is for them.

Jesus: I'll just add. It's great to see the confidence that they build. They're afraid to touch tools when they start and then they gain skills that have them walking around like they know what they're doing.

Q: Do you have a funny or interesting story about your time?

Sergio: When we do the tours at LAX, I can point to the Air Traffic Control Tower, and I recall working on that project. It's fun to brag a little. The Contractor Open House & union tours are the best. We literally get to see the students' eyes open to a whole new world.

Jesus: I get to teach safety. At first, they're like, that doesn't apply to me. As they learn, they develop this safety culture. Almost half of the students admit to being afraid of heights at the start, but by the time we finish scaffolding, they are comfortable 15 ft off the ground.



Jesus Fernandez

“It's amazing where a construction career will take you if you let it.”



Sergio Hernandez

“The impact that LAWA & Contractors are making is real, impactful, and transformative.”

Q: Name one thing you wish contractors knew about HireLAX graduates.

Jesus: Their commitment! Some of them quit their jobs. The level of commitment to put their life on hold for 8 weeks to get into the trades, is just amazing.

Sergio: Definitely the commitment. They made a lot of hard decisions to make it to the end of this program.

Jesus: The program helps them in any career they pick. Not only does this program help people know if they are cut out for construction, but it lets them know if waking up early just isn't good for them.

Q: Any last thoughts?

Sergio: The impact that LAWA & Contractors are making is real, impactful, and transformative. Those that have completed the program and have gone to work, have had their lives changed. Their lives, those around them, and generations to come.

Jesus: I went through a program that was like HireLAX when I was 19. It's amazing where a construction career will take you if you let it.