

SWRMC Apprentice to receive Apprentice of the year award

By Tannyr Denby & Calvin Smith

Southwest Regional Maintenance Center

SAN DIEGO –One of Southwest Regional Maintenance Center’s (SWRMC) graduating apprentices is scheduled to receive the Southwest Regional Apprentice Program (SWRAP) Apprentice of the Year Award during the SWRAP graduation ceremony slated for Sep. 9.

SWRAP is a Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility program in partnership with SWRMC, NAVAIR Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Point Loma and Southwestern College. The program offers a four-year, accredited, co-operative educational opportunity leading to a Certificate of Completion in leadership and supervision and certification in one of 7 trades related to Navy ship maintenance and repair.

Deborah Fulbright, SWARP Apprentice of the Year, was very shocked when she found out she was selected for the award.

“At first I thought it was just for SWRMC and I was very excited,” said Fulbright. “But I later found out that it was for the whole SWRAP class and I was shocked because there was some really good competition.”

Coming from a lean background, Fulbright noticed opportunities for continuous process improvement while working in the SWRMC production shops, which fueled many of the projects she took on.

Fulbright played a significant role in developing a cost savings solution for the refurbishment of ready service Lockers (RSL). To accomplish this she worked with several parts of the command to set-up tool boxes, establish HAZMAT to be used on the production line, to schedule locker repairs, and to create the formal procedures to be used in the repairs.

She then designed a tool for installation of a rubber strip on a difficult area to reach in the RSL and created an instruction to help future artisans easily understand the procedures, saving the government thousands of dollars by keeping the work in house vice contracting it out.

“She displays a work ethic that stands out in the accomplishment of tasks, setting a great example for others”, said Calvin Smith, SWRMC engine product family manager and Apprentice Program coordinator.

“She consistently demonstrates her leadership skills in tackling new assignments,” said Smith. “Her demonstration of mechanical knowledge, process improvement and leadership are outstanding traits and skills that will be valuable as she seeks more responsibilities in the Production Department.”

Along with all of the great work Fulbright does at SWRMC, she also does great things for the San Diego community. Fulbright is a volunteer coach for youth bowling, coaching over 30 children. She is assigned to the special needs children due to her patience and personality.

Fulbright graduates from the program with a 3.8 cumulative grade point average and encourages current apprentices to work hard and learn all they can while they are in the program.

“For people who are in the program now, really take the time to do your homework and learn the job you are assigned, and if you have an idea, don’t be afraid to express it.”

To learn more about SWRAP, please visit <https://www.swccd.edu/index.aspx?page=1047>.

To learn more about SWRMC, please visit <http://www.swrmc.navy.mil/>.