



May 2020

## Trinity Alumni T-Blast

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### **Trinity Pipeline to Wagner Electric Has Been a Great Partnership**

**By: Tony Wagner**

I wanted to send a letter to promote the great success that we at Wagner Electric have been having with Trinity graduates over the past several years. This partnership deserves proper recognition because we at Wagner are very proud of it and think the Trinity family will be as well. Wagner Electric was founded in 1961 by J.F. Wagner, father to Mike Wagner H'09 and his brother

Chris. Shortly after college, Mike and Chris joined J.F. and helped build the company into what it is today. Wagner Electric's main business is commercial and industrial electrical installations in the Kentuckiana region. Wagner specializes in the most difficult applications in the electrical field as well as catastrophic emergency mitigation. Currently Wagner employs over 100 technicians and produces revenues annually of nearly \$20 million.

The current owner of Wagner Electric is Coach Mike Wagner. Coach Wagner started his relationship with Trinity back in 1999 when Dennis Lampley H'92 offered him a coaching position on the freshman football staff. Since that time Coach Wagner has served as the head coach of the freshman football team while also serving Coach Beatty H'03 on the offensive varsity staff for the past 21 years. During Coach Wagner's time at Trinity he has gotten to know many young men. Some of those young men have come to Coach Wagner looking for ideas for after high school. While Wagner always had personalized advice for each young man, he was always quick to remind his players that getting into a trade was a great option.

Currently eleven Trinity graduates work at Wagner Electric. Eight are licensed journeyman, and two are in the IEC Electrical school on their way to becoming electricians. Two past Trinity graduates, Bryan Cole '03 and Stephen Terry '01, were named National Apprentices of the Year upon graduation from trade school. The other Trinity graduates are Conor Flinchum '12, Matt Rhea '03, Ryan Sims '04, Mitchell Tompkins '16, Nick Strothman '18, Casey Stengel '19, James Wagner '11, Nathan Weitlauf '18 and Quinn Zoeller '16.

The past five years Wagner Electric has participated in the annual Trinity job fair coordinated by Devian Logan '91. The job fair has been very effective in bringing the opportunities for a career at Wagner Electric to light. At the job fairs, we have had a chance to explain what working at Wagner is like and what opportunities for a career Wagner has to offer. Trinity graduates excel in electrical school due to the challenging curriculum at Trinity.

What we see is that Trinity students have been taught how to study and to absorb knowledge both on the job and in the classroom because of the discipline they learn while at Trinity. The best electrician must be smart, organized, and quick on their feet. When we get a young man from Trinity, they excel because they already know how to act and how to learn. At the job fair we

always tell the young men that getting into a trade can be very rewarding, you can build a very successful life here in this community and you won't have \$200,000 in student loans to pay back.

We are extremely proud of the young men from Trinity who work here. Every year we bring 2-3 new Trinity graduates into the fold. Coach Wagner calls them "Star Ball Carriers." He approaches every situation like a football game. Maybe that's why this relationship between Trinity and Wagner Electric has been so special. The future is very bright for these Trinity graduates, and we encourage any young man looking for a career in a trade to give us a call!