

Welding Technology Certificate Program Executive Summary

This certification program was developed with funds provided by the US Department of Labor Community Based Job Training grant awarded to Barton Community College in February, 2009. The purpose of the grant is to provide vocational training to inmates prior to their release from confinement. Welding Certification was selected as one of the four vocational programs to be delivered in fulfillment of the grant objectives.

Rational

Offering vocational training to inmates prior to their reentry into the community greatly decreases recidivism rates. Enrolling pre-release inmates in technical training programs provides an excellent return on the training investment. Upon release, untrained inmates typically earn a very low wage and create challenges in meeting financial obligations such as child support, fines, fees, restitution, and taxes. Statistics show that offenders who receive training during their incarceration make substantial strides toward fulfilling their financial obligations. Additionally, statistics show a five percent reduction in inmate recidivism within one year of follow-up, when comparing inmates who received training vs. those who did not participate in technical training.

The CBJT grant project follows the underlying correctional philosophy of Reach-out, Retrain, and Re-entry (R3). The R3 project has two overarching goals: The first is to provide certificate-bearing training programs to a minimum of 250 probationers in community corrections and incarcerated juveniles and adults in four target correctional facilities. The second goal is to increase the capacity of the partner colleges to provide manufacturing and construction trade workforce training in the state of Kansas. Statistics provided by the Kansas Department of Labor indicate that welding jobs will increase by 5% between 2002-2012. The current median wage for someone entering the welding profession is \$13.05 per hour. Kansas employers are demanding skilled workers in the grant targeted training areas including Welding Technology. Barton Community College can provide accessible, affordable, and flexible training to meet these industry labor demands; correctional facilities have a ready source of potential workers to fill the positions.

Courses Welding Technology Certificate Program:

- Blueprint Reading – 3 credit hours
- Shielded Metal Arc Welding – 3 credit hours
- Gas Metal Arc Welding – 3 credit hours
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welding – 3 credit hours
- Cutting Processes – 3 credit hours
- Safety – 1-3 credit hours
- Total Credit Hours – 16-18**

Partnerships

Kansas Department of Commerce and KansasWORKS, Local Area Investment Boards (WIBs), and One Stop Career Centers

A significant number of businesses across the state have indicated support for the CBJT grant project and have agreed to hire trained workers.

Community & Faith-Based Organizations, including Post Rock Jaycees and Spiritual Life Center

Central Kansas Community Corrections

Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority, including Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility

Kansas Department of Corrections, including the adult correctional facilities at Larned, Hutchinson and Ellsworth

Summary

The Welding Technology Certification Program will become a core component of the CBJT grant and will provide productive vocational training to a readily available labor force. The training offered can provide the successful participant with a sustainable income and serve to reduce factors that may lead to recidivism. These trained participants will not only serve to fill predicted voids in the labor market, but also serve to strengthen the overall Kansas economy.

Contact

David Miller

CBJT Project Director

620-792-9244

millerd@bartonccc.edu