

The Torch...Forging a connection to the future!

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Welding/Fabrication III Boot Camp
December 2013

Opportunity for employers to INTERVIEW candidates after the ceremony!

Space is available to interview
Welding/Fabrication Boot
Camp participants following
the completion ceremony
from 2:30—4:30.

For more information contact
Todd Nienhaus from the
Racine County Workforce
Development Center at
262-638-6541 or
Todd.Nienhaus@goracine.org.

Success Story - Chris Cox was taught how to weld on a previous job, but when he was laid off he realized that he needed to get an education with documentations of his welding skills. A sustainable career path was what he was looking for and he found it through the boot camp. He has also discovered how his love of art can be tied to a job he loves.

This is his first experience with algebra and he was proud to say that he is getting all A's. He can also see how the boot camps have advanced his self-taught skills.

"I was lost on the job with blueprint reading in the past and had to ask a lot of questions in order to do the job," he says.

Aside from wanting to take advanced welding and business courses, Chris also speaks excitedly about how welding is both a hobby and a career for him. His instructor, Kim Weckerly allowed him to draw up shop sketches and create special projects in class, including tables, a spider-web headboard and a metal box for the 3-D printers in the Industrial Design Fab Lab.

"I enjoy creating things, I like to take a pile of nothing and make it into something." His passion is design, "Many welders consider themselves to be artists ... there is an art to it."

Positive feedback from instructors, and success on projects have helped him gain confidence in his abilities. He called instructors an inspiration to students in the boot camp, and he not only is thinking of his short-term goals but is setting long-term goals such as opening his own business. Chris leaves the boot camp with more advanced welding and career skills.

"I already feel like I could go out into industry and be successful."



Class Project - The staff in Gateway's Industrial Design Fab Lab noticed that the prints from the tabletop 3D printers were cooling a little too quickly because of the varying temperatures of the lab. "We started using a cardboard box to cover the printer to maintain heat and protect against cold drafts... kind of an ugly solution", said Greg Herker, Fab Lab Coordinator.

They asked Kim Weckerly if his welding students could make them a box with a door. "They quickly came over measured it out and built a box that works well in maintaining temperature, and our prints have turned out nicely," said Herker. The product is now being used when they run a print for an industry partner or class project in the Fab Lab. Just an example of a concept taken to a prototype and then to finished product at the SC Johnson iMET Center.

www.gtc.edu/wedd/industrial-design-fab-lab

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Empleador y educador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades

Welding/Fabrication III BOOT CAMP Completion Ceremony

Date: December 13, 2013

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm Ceremony
2:30-4:30 pm Interviews

Location:
Gateway Technical College
Racine Campus, Michigan Room
1001 S. Main Street Racine, WI 53403



Success Story - Alex Nice worked his way up the career ladder at an auto shop from oil changes to repairing engines. At that time he thought he would go back to technical college to earn an automotive technology degree. He said his interest in welding started while working at the shop while his boss was teaching him to weld, “I can do that, melting metal ... that’s pretty cool.”

The boot camp is Alex’s first experience with higher education. “Math is basically a review of what I did in high school and I did some blueprint reading in a technical class at Burlington High School.” Oral Communications is new to him and he sees it as valuable because it is geared more toward providing the skills needed for the workplace, compared to the speech classes he had in the past. He said what is most valuable is working on resumes and developing interviewing and time management skills.

Upcoming Welding/Fabrication Boot Camps Weld/Fab IV: January 6, 2014

Contact one of the following Workforce Development Center (WDC) representatives for application materials:

Kenosha: Rich Salisbury, Rich.Salisbury@kenoshacounty.org
Racine: Todd Nienhaus, todd.nienhaus@goracine.org
Walworth: Mark Leemkuil, mleemkuil@dwfs.us

If you are an employer interested in learning more about the program contact:

Gateway Technical College:
Robin Hoke at Hoker@gtc.edu

Racine County Workforce Development Center:
Valerie Hanson at Valerie.Hanson@goracine.org

“The program is basically giving you a good work ethic.”

Alex says the boot camp energizes him. Staff members provide real-world training and real-world experiences which train students to successfully enter the welding field.

“It gets me up and going. I used to bounce around and it is helping me to see what the workplace is going to be like.”

In high school, Alex knew he wanted to open his own business some day and this will be an extra push in getting him there. He is considering taking more TIG and MIG courses when he finishes the program to improve his welding skills. He enjoys TIG welding because it is more challenging and it has a cleaner looking weld. He may also take some business classes to learn more about running a business. Alex has set many goals for himself through this process.

“I would like to build my own house and start a family, but my biggest goal is to eventually open my own business as a welder-fabricator.”



Boot Camp to Apprenticeship... Grant Money Available!

Employers, did you know that a candidate from the boot camps can be hired as an apprentice? This training will pick up where the boot camp left off. This is a way to “grow your own” with the schooling and skills to back it up. **Contact: Nicci Pagan to learn more at paganj@gtc.edu or visit www.gtc.edu/apprenticeships.**

Grant funding is currently available in the Southeast Wisconsin region through Department of Labor TIME grants for manufacturers.

Contact your local Workforce Development Center (*listed above*) to apply.

Gateway Technical College
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Development Division (WEDD)
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Sturtevant, WI 53177

www.gtc.edu/wedd/boot-camps