

### **Welding@SVHEC**

The Welding@SVHEC initiative is a direct response to employer requests for more trained, certified welders in southern Virginia. The SVHEC's Workforce Services department worked with Virginia Technical Institute in Altavista, VA, to bring this certified program to South Boston. VTI is the official sponsor for Welding@SVHEC.

Welding@SVHEC is an 18 month, accredited training program providing students with instruction in MIG, TIG, Stick, and Pipe welding. This non-credit program is accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). Individuals who successfully complete the program will receive NCCER Welding Certification--a portable, 3rd party validated industry credential recognized by employers across the nation.

### **Welding@SVHEC Training Lab**

Training for Welding@SVHEC takes place in the SVHEC Innovation Center. In 2014, space in the Innovation Center was upfitted to house the new, state-of-the-art 10-bay welding lab. Each bay features its own welder, gas supply, and electrical shut-off switch. The student's tuition also provides usage of any tools associated with training. This training space comfortably accommodates hands-on learning experiences and student skill building in MIG, TIG, Stick, and Pipe welding.

Additionally, instructors utilize the Lincoln Welding Simulator to engage students with hands-on learning and practice in a safe, realistic, virtual environment. The simulator is a key piece of instructional equipment because it provides experiential learning opportunities for beginning students without risk of physical harm or loss of costly instructional materials. It is anticipated that use of the welding simulator will reduce the learning curve of students while leading to increased proficiency and reduced waste and welding material usage.

### **Welding@SVHEC Initial Cohort**

- 19 students in 2 cohorts--one day, one evening (maximum capacity is 20 based on number of welding bays available)
- Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The day cohort meets from 10am-2pm; the evening cohort meets from 5pm-9pm.
- Program instruction is provided by the following members of the talented team of NCCER-certified craft instructors:
  - Fernandez Bruce ▪ Kenny Conner ▪ Troy Comer ▪ Jerry Elliott
  - Vashon Canty ▪ Marque Medley ▪ Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens

### **Welding@SVHEC Funders**

Welding@SVHEC is made possible by donations from the following entities:

- CoBank
- Dominion Resources-Dominion Foundation
- Halifax Educational Foundation, Inc.
- ODEC-Old Dominion Electric Cooperative-Dominion Clover Plant
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