

# The Telegraph

## Cutting Class

Lewis and Clark offers welding courses  
Student to learn variety of skills, college officials say



Student Nick Gurley cleans a fresh arc weld in one of the classroom's individual welding cubicles. The Welding Technology program offers eight different types of certificates, a certificate of proficiency and an associate's degree.

By KATHIE BASSETT The Telegraph

GODFREY - Students now can "join" their academic studies with a career in a manufacturing industry by enrolling in Welding Technology courses that allow them to learn the processes using state-of-the-art equipment in a newly revamped facility.

This fall, Lewis and Clark Community College began offering a Welding Technology curriculum that includes eight different types of certificates, a certificate of proficiency and an associate's degree, said Travis Jumper, the program's coordinator and instructor.

"Right now, we're offering four classes and will add two more classes in the spring as our students progress," Jumper said. "In the classes, students learn a variety of processes, so they can go out into industry and be able to do multiple kinds of welding."

To launch the program, the college temporarily has refitted a maintenance shed on the north side of the Godfrey campus with a sophisticated ventilation system that sends arms into each of the 15 stations outfitted with a Miller XMT 450 welder.

The individual stations line the perimeter of the shed, with each enclosed by a special red plastic curtain that prevents ultraviolet or infrared rays from escaping into the main space.

"Students can learn a variety of skills, such as how to do shielded metal arc or stick welding, MIG welding, flux core welding, TIG welding, or do oxy-fuel brazing, soldering and pipe welding," Jumper said. "They can also learn about fabrication and layout design and testing and inspecting, so they can know the process from start to finish."

Welding techniques vary according to base materials and structural needs, Jumper explained, which dictate not only the kind of process used but also the variety of compressed gas, if any, employed.

Jumper first provides students with background information, gives a demonstration, and then moves from station to station to offer advice and tips.

"It cost about \$400,000 to renovate the building and purchase the equipment, with the majority of that coming from a Title Three federal grant," he said.

The college plans to build a permanent home for the program within the next two years, providing classroom space, individual stations, offices along with restrooms and locker rooms, so students can change clothes.

To contain costs, students are asked to purchase only one textbook for the program, along with lab books geared toward a particular course. Students also must provide their own personal equipment, such as leather gauntlet-style gloves, safety glasses, a welding cap to protect their hair and a welding helmet.

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Jumper explained to first-year student Isabella Slimick, who stopped by the facility for a tour, that his courses go into greater depth than the curriculum taught in high school.

Slimick said she plans to enroll in courses next semester.

"I've been welding for a couple years, and I like it," she said. "I plan to get my associate's degree (in Welding Technology) and go from there."

Jumper earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural systems from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, returning to earn his master's in workforce education. He has taught welding as an adjunct professor at Lincoln Land Community College.

"This is a good space," Jumper observed. "It's working nicely for us."

For more information, visit

<http://www.lc.edu/degrees/WeldingPrinc/welding.aspx>.

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