

What are the benefits of the Early College Welding Program?

- Qualify for a high paying welding career in a few weeks (average starting wages \$15- \$16 per hour with rapid increases to over \$20.)
- Receive concentrated hands-on welding training in an accelerated learning environment from the region's best welding instructors.
- Job placement support is provided throughout the program
- Small, interactive classes allowing welding instructors to provide individual attention to trainees.
- Families receive a drastically discounted rate of \$200 for the full welding certification program. (The complete program costs approximately \$10,600.)

Why Welding?

Welding is one of the oldest and most booming fields and plays a key role in the manufacturing sector. A career in welding can be extremely lucrative and exciting, and can lead to high level employment in various industries. However, the American Welding Society says the average age of a welder is 57, and by 2020 the AWS estimates there will be a 290,000 job deficit in the industry. There are more welders retiring each year than new welders coming into the industry. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the need for welders is expected to grow by 26 percent by 2020. The growing demand for welders has caused many jobseekers to consider a career in welding for a few reasons. The welding industry offers higher than average starting pay, good benefits and a bright future.

Welder Pay Average

| Employer | Average |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Johnson Controls, Inc. | \$36,584 |
| Caterpillar, Inc. | \$39,810 |
| General electric Co. (GE) | \$43,680 |
| Huntington Ingalls Industries | \$52,666 |

A Better Future with the Skilled Trades

The skilled trades are changing. Industries like manufacturing or construction are modernizing, which requires workers that have the training to handle these highly skilled and often well paying jobs. Trade careers are a promising alternative for those who do not want to enroll, spend the money or devote the time in a four-year college or university to land a good job. By choosing a career in the skilled trades, young Americans and career changers can build a future for themselves.



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Early Career

in WELDING



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Early Career



What is Early Career?

The Early Career Program is a partnership between Newport News Public Schools, the Newport News Education Foundation, Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Nelson Community College. It is made possible in part through a grant from Newport News Shipbuilding/Huntington Ingalls Industries.

This program is designed for high school seniors to pursue certification that will open employment opportunities in the skilled trades industry immediately following graduation.

Who is Eligible?

- Students who have completed all SOL requirements needed for the standard diploma prior to the start of senior year.
- Students who are able to complete all course requirements for the standard diploma by the end of the first semester of senior year.
- Students are able to matriculate to the welding program after completing the full year of English 12 and US Government during their senior year. Students will complete these courses through an online curriculum during regular school hours.

Why Early Career?

Today's competitive job market requires knowledge and training. The Early Career Program provides the opportunity to:

- Jump start training prior to high school graduation
- Earn a marketable career skill
- Reduce the amount of time needed to earn a career certification
- Students participate in an exciting program during their senior year that will allow them to obtain credentials at a limited cost. After successful program completion, the student will enter the work force with a highly marketable skill set, making wages of \$15-20/hr.

What is the Cost?

- Selected students will remit payment to NNPS for \$200 prior to the start of spring coursework at TNCC.
- All other tuition, textbooks and supply costs will be provided by NNPS to Early Career participants. (Please note: The cost per student for all 5 certification classes is approximately \$10,600 for those enrolling after high school.)



What are the On-Campus Requirements?

Students must attend class daily and demonstrate continued success through tiered coursework.



Courses

Listed below are the 5 courses that NNPS students will complete while enrolled in the Early Career program. Each of these welding courses build upon one another. Successful completion of the prerequisite course is required prior to moving on in the sequence of certification opportunities.

- Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) - Stick welding
- Flux Core Arc Welding (FCAW) - Flux core welding
- Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) - MIG
- Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) - TIG
- Certified Pipe Welder

