

**2015
AWARD
WINNER**

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Manufacturing

CAREER CLUSTER

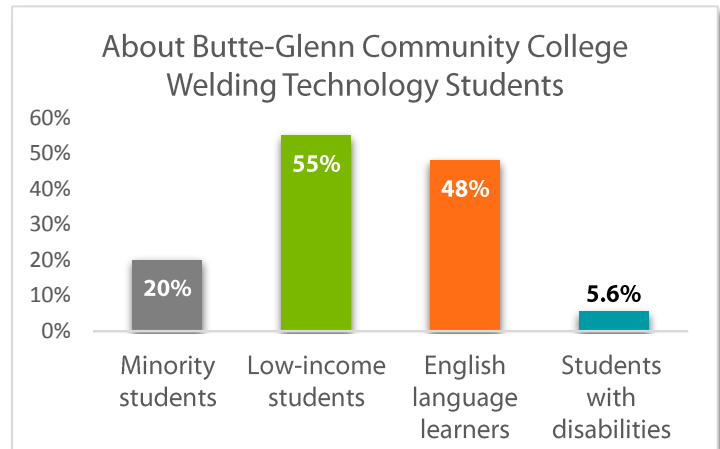


BACKGROUND

The **Welding Technology Program** at **Butte-Glenn Community College (BGCC)** in Oroville, California is a program of study that prepares learners for a wide array of careers. By relying on rigorous program performance standards and national curriculum standards, this program successfully produces entry-level welding technicians poised for success.

HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

The welding program has been offered since BGCC's inception in 1967 but has gone through multiple curricular and programmatic changes to address industry demands and technological advances. In 1985, the program was modified and enhanced to offer welding certifications as well as an Associate of Science Degree in welding technology, and in 2008 a capstone course was added, in partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), focusing on the emerging industry of natural gas and petrochemical pipeline welding. The program of study prepares learners by incorporating American Welding Society, American Petroleum Institute and NCCER industry standards and certifications.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

"The college is a leader in articulation agreements in the region, with the greatest concentration within welding programs. In a perfect scenario a high school student graduates with the first two prerequisites of community college. This pathway provides a pipeline of high-skilled students to meet the demands of the labor market."

Don Robinson, Welding Technology Department Instructor/Chair, Butte-Glenn Community College

BGCC has developed articulation agreements with 20 high schools in Northern and Central California, as well as full 2+2 programs with certain high schools. In fact, the Beginning Welding and Intermediate Welding courses are pre-requisites to entry into the full program of study, which can be taken in high school.

BGCC also offers opportunities for high school students to complete college courses through concurrent enrollment and is currently in the process of identifying courses for dual enrollment. In 2013-2014 **79 students** earned postsecondary credit through these agreements. There are no fees associated with the program, and enrollment and crediting are carried out through the cooperative efforts of high school faculty and the CTE Transitions Program at Butte-Glenn.

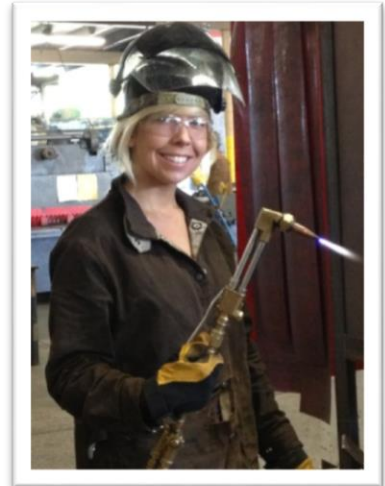
Once students continue their education at the postsecondary level, they will experience academic rigor and hands-on real world training. Faculty, in consultation and collaboration with industry experts, design courses to ensure students have exposure to the best and emerging practices. Industry presentations, service learning opportunities, field trips, internships, CTE Career Day conferences, and advanced coursework and certifications all provide additional learning opportunities. And students can begin earning stackable credentials immediately. Last year, students earned a **total of 258 certifications**.

PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO PROGRAM SUCCESS

Strong industry and business partners are a major factor in the program of study. For example, PG&E and the college jointly developed the PG&E Power Pathway for welding, including developing the curriculum and PG&E offering instructor training and scholarships for welding students. Butte College graduates of the Welding Technology Program and PG&E Power Pathway are highly sought for employment at PG&E upon program completion. In addition, business partners such as RF MacDonald, Barnum Mechanical Inc. and Transfer Flow provide students with training and resources, and regularly and consistently hire students upon completion of the program.

STUDENT SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

So what does this all mean? The Welding Technology program of study has a proven track record of preparing its students for success in the careers of their choice.



"I have found Butte College's Program to be exemplary and a model for others. Frankly, I consider them to be one of the best welding programs in our state. The graduates are considered to be more highly qualified and able to perform journeyman level work sooner than other graduates in the marketplace."

Kerry Shatell, Sr. Welding Engineer, PG&E

