

I attended the Weld-Ed Workshop on Welding and Materials Joining Education June 15-26, 2009, at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas. Because of my attendance at the AWS Weld-Ed Class in Las Vegas during the 2008 Convention, I was so inspired by everything that Weld-Ed is doing that it motivated me to do much more in my field of welding education. I took the summer course knowing that I would learn so many things that I could immediately put into practice in my high school Career & Technology program. Your course far exceeded my expectations. Professor Dickinson was great! I learned so much from him, and the way that he laid the course out really kept my attention. I did not know what to expect at first when I got the schedule of our two week long classes. I was worried and excited at the same time with the amount of information we were going to receive while going through the course. But once I sat there in class on the first day and the professor explained in detail what we would be going over and the homework involved, I felt really at ease and eager to learn. I have been teaching welding at my High School for 18 years now and three years at El Paso Community College with the inclusion of dual credit to my welding program. Because of the dual credit program, my students at high school can also receive up to 15 hours of college credit for just taking the course their Junior and Senior years. The workshop on Welding and Materials Joining in Waco is going to help me create a new program through Project Lead the Way. My director says our district is currently familiar with Project Lead the Way and has one of their programs already in place at one of our other high schools in the district, so starting a new Welding and Materials Joining at Jefferson High School will not be a problem. I also expressed the excitement that I had about your Workshop in Waco to my director at the Community College where I also teach at night and she really liked what Weld-ed was doing and wanted me to sit down and share more. I plan to use what I learned at the college as well, because all the information that I gained during the workshop will help make my teaching easier. If I am not able to teach the Welding Materials Joining program as a whole course, I know that I can incorporate all of the information into courses from Blue Print Reading to Metallurgy to better serve our students.

I am thankful for the grant you offered to attend the workshop. The grant gave me a great opportunity to attend the course and covered all my hotel room costs along with my meals (breakfast & Lunch) during the two weeks I attended. All this would have been too a large cost for myself or my school and I may not have been able to attend at all. I apologize for taking so long to respond to your email asking for my comments on the course. I have been very busy working on implementing the new teaching strategies and learning styles that Weld-ed taught me. Beth, I have attached a letter that I sent to my Principal about all the new things that are happening for me here in El Paso at Jefferson/Silva High School thanks to Weld-ed. You will note in this letter that I am expanding my shop into a Welding Engineering Lab; I would have never dreamed this possible if not for the inspiration that I received from Weld-ed! Since I began teaching welding at the high school, my desire has always been to broaden my horizons and find ways to make the welding program stronger here and help all the students become more marketable in their field of welding. Now that has been accomplished thanks to the help of Weld-ed, and because of Weld-ed I am not having to try and do it on my own. I look forward to my continued association with Weld-ed and the new things to come! Thank you for your inspiration to our teachers and the next generation of students.

Sincerely,

John Paul Gable, Teacher
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I am really enjoying the WTEC-291, Train the Trainer class you are providing us here at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. David Dickenson is doing an outstanding job of refreshing and in some cases stretching our minds in the vocation he is so passionate about. This you need to know. I am requesting assistance from you in an attempt to use this course as a course of transfer of credits to Penn State University for the Workforce Education and Development Baccalaureate Degree Program I will be starting this Fall.

Thank you for providing this course to us, and for your help.
David Gephart
Williamsport Area High School
Welding Instructor

I enjoy the workshop with Mr. Dickinson in Waco, Texas. This is a much needed curriculum industry wide. The material was broad and the instructor very knowledgeable of the welding subject.

Walter Velez
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