



**SOUTHEAST**  
Technical College

# Welding DOC Program



# WELDING PROGRAM COLLABORATION

- A collaboration between Southeast Technical College (STC), Department of Corrections (DOC), & Department of Labor (DOL)
- Minimum-security inmates, non-violent offenders from Sioux Falls are selected based on predetermined criteria
- Candidates go through a rigorous prescreening process to qualify
- Semester-long welding certificate program including Math as well as Re-Entry programming (DOC) and employment training and assistance (DLR) on STC Campus.
- Cohort of 12 to 20 students from DOC each semester.
- Students earn a welding certificate from STC and also can earn American Welding Society industry certification.



# DOC WELDING CLASSES

- MATH 100 3 Credit Hours
- WLD 100 - Introduction to Welding 3 Credit Hours
- WLD 101 - Welding Theory I 2 Credit Hours
- WLD 101L - Welding Theory I Lab 1 Credit Hours
- WLD 120 - Intermediate Welding 5 Credit Hours

# DOC WELDING CERTIFICATE COHORT

- 62 students have graduated with a certificate since beginning of the program, fall 2022
- Program has 85% completion rate
- 75% first try pass rate on the AWS certification
- 11 students are in the current semester



Student numbers, completion, and AWS certification statistics provided by STC

# DOC WELDING CERTIFICATE COHORT

- Initial employment of graduates is 86%. 98% of those were placed in field.
- At the one-year mark, 84% of graduates remained employed. 65% of graduates are still working in field.
- 90% of last years graduates are still employed (stats as of 3/5/25)



Employment statistics provided by DOC.

# FUTURE STC PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES

- Continue with Welding Certificate on campus – qualify for PEP so Financial aid can be used for tuition
- Explore opportunities to offer a Skilled Trade Certificate/Diploma at current DOC location.  
(Possibilities include Diesel Technology, Construction Trades, HVAC, Mechatronics)
- Future possibilities at a new prison facility may be able to support:
  - Offer certificate and diploma of welding at the Prison
  - Expand to other STC programs in the prison



# NEXT

THE SMART WAY TO WHAT'S



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