



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIBBON CUT ON NEW WELDING CENTER
AT MCCC

Gift from Local Philanthropists and Federal Grant Make New Center a Reality

MONROE, Mich. – Today, officials marked the opening of the Monroe County Community College Welding Center of Expertise, located in a newly renovated facility at 1004 West Hurd in Frenchtown Township.

A metal ribbon, fabricated by MCCC student Curt Connor, was torch-cut to ceremonially mark the opening of the facility.

The building was the former site of Pump Engineering Inc. After moving to a new location, the company sought to repurpose the facility. Local architect Jim Jacobs connected the college with Pump Engineering Inc. officials after hearing a presentation about MCCC's welding program at a Kiwanis Club of Monroe gathering.

Last fall, the company decided to donate their 18,190 square foot factory to The Foundation at Monroe County Community College.

Earlier this year, the college used part of a \$1.7 million U.S. Department of Labor Community-Based Job Training (CBJT) grant, awarded in 2009, to convert the building into a state of the art, cross-

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categorical welding skills laboratory. The remaining grant funds will be used by the college's Industrial Technology Division to offer accelerated 10-week courses to prepare students for American Welding Society's QC10 and QC11 certification. Both examinations are offered at MCCC.

The certifications will qualify students for entry into advanced-level employment, self-employment and local welding labor unions.

"This accelerated model was designed to expand access to displaced workers and increase the pipeline of skilled workers in the regional economy," said Joe Czapiewski, welding grant coordinator.

Grant partners include Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium, Southeast Michigan Wired, Monroe Public Schools, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Board, Utility Workers Union of America, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 85-Ohio and Local 169-Detroit, United Association Local 671 (Plumbers and Pipefitters), DTE Energy, Midway Products Group, Marathon Petroleum, and Baker's Gas and Welding Supplies.

For more information about the program, interested students can contact Czapiewski at 734.384.4145 or jczapiewski@monroeccc.edu.

Prospective students can download application materials at www.mcccweldcoe.org.

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