



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center
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El Camino College Compton Center Prepares Women for Careers in Welding

Have you ever considered a career in shipbuilding, automobile manufacturing and repair, aerospace, or construction? Have you thought about working on a pipeline or at a power plant or a refinery? These industries all require skilled welders—workers with the ability to permanently join metal parts. El Camino College Compton Center offers degrees and certificate programs that train women to prepare for high paying jobs as welders.

To earn a certificate or degree, students need to become proficient in various welding processes—oxy-acetylene cutting, plasma arc cutting, brazing and welding, shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding and flux cored welding. Additionally, students become skillful in blueprint reading, layout, structural fabrication and pipe welding.

Two sisters, Alece Grant and LaTonya Carter, are in the welding program at Compton Center. Ms. Grant was in the field of construction and was laid off from her job. She entered the welding program at Compton Center to learn more technical skills. Ms. Carter worked for many years for the Compton Unified School District and in a financial services business. She began welding classes to pursue a third career after assisting a friend in the field. Ms. Carter says: “You don’t bring the job with you, and you have many options for short or long term employment with contractors.” She encourages young people to consider welding, get certified, and “get a career under their belt.”

La Tonya Carter and Alece Grant were selected to receive tool kits provided by the Nissan Foundation for El Camino College Women in Industry (WIT) students who are taking classes in automotive technology, computer electronics and hardware, machine tool technology, manufacturing technology and welding. To qualify, the students needed a 2.0 GPA or higher, must have completed 9 or more units and are currently enrolled in career and technical education classes.

Eugene Benson, an instructor at Compton for 28 years, motivates his students by sharing the history of welding and demonstrating real world applications such as in steel construction and pipe welding. He encourages them to take the time to develop key skills that lead to rewarding careers. Mr. Benson has taught students who have contributed to the Compton campus by fabricating the wrought iron fence along Artesia Boulevard to Santa Fe. An upcoming student project will be to recreate the arrow in the Tartar statue that resides in the center of the campus. Many students and community members bring their own projects in need of welding to the shop.

For information about Compton Center’s *Women in Industry and Technology Program*, contact Alicia Zambrano at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779 or go to www.compton.edu/academics/wit or www.compton.edu/academics/cte.

El Camino College Compton Center is accredited and serving the educational needs of our community. Students can earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university or receive career training. Fees are only \$20 per unit. The catalog, class schedule, and evening and weekend offerings are available in-person or online at www.compton.edu Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA; 310-900-1600.

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