Workforce Development at Western Nevada College

The large majority of activities at WNC fit into two categories: University transfer preparation and workplace skill training and development, generally termed as workforce development. Most commonly, the phrase workforce development implies training in technical fields under the broad heading of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

At WNC, the CTE department consists of programs in Business, Welding, Machine Tool Technology, Automotive Technology, Industrial Systems, Construction Technology and Management, Computer System Administration, Computer Networking and Criminal Justice, which includes Police Officer Standards and Training, known as the POST Academy.

The college offers two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees in all of these disciplines with the exception of Construction Management, which is a four-year program yielding a Bachelor of Technology degree. In addition, 30 credit Certificates of Achievement are offered in Automotive Mechanics, Bookkeeping and Business, Computer Technology, Criminal Justice, Machine Tool Technology and Welding Technology.

Since 2013, a third option has been made available by the United States Department of Labor through its Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. This program has allowed WNC to offer technical training in innovative formats to rapidly equip program participants with in-demand job skills. Students have the opportunity of attending 16-week accelerated format programs in Machine Tool Technology, Welding Technology and Automotive Technology. Program participants attend school 24 hours per week, completing three-credit courses every two weeks. In this fashion, students complete the full two-year technical curriculum in one semester. The TAACCCT program is also funding traditionally formatted programs in Computer Networking, Manufacturing Technology and the Certified Nursing Assistant program. All of the TAACCCT programs yield participants nationally recognized industry certifications, a key factor in employability. TAACCCT funding was recently extended through 2018.

The college also provides training customized to specific employer needs. Public and private entities take advantage of WNC’s broad range of faculty expertise to provide the workforce skills needed in their organizations.

Employer involvement is critical to all CTE programs. Each discipline maintains an advisory committee consisting of industry representatives and other stakeholders. Meeting at least once per semester, these advisory committees provide valuable input to the various programs, ensuring they are relevant. Additionally, the college maintains extensive communication and involvement with business, the industrial community, economic development organizations and other agencies through outreach and participation. WNC recognizes the value and importance of community involvement.