

MOBILE WELDING & SKILLS TRAINING CENTER
Powered by Portland Community College and Union Pacific



BUILDING AMERICA



Powering the **FUTURE**

D'Angelo Macedo Becker, current diesel technology student, and Todd Barnett, lead welding instructor, know firsthand how PCC is empowering students to build brighter futures while fueling the regional workforce.



D'Angelo Macedo Becker
Fleet Fuels: Schaeffer Oil Diesel
Scholarship Recipient

“I imagine helping power the entire world while working anywhere I want.”

That's what I've always been interested in — using my mind and my body together to solve problems and help others.

As a young kid in Northeast Portland, I liked hands-on stuff, but it wasn't until my family and I moved to Scappoose that I really felt like I found my community. There are more people in that area who do jobs that I can see myself doing.

Because of COVID, I attended remote classes for all but my senior year of high school. After graduation, I toured colleges and universities, but I hesitated. Many were expensive and had programs that required long hours of sitting in the classroom. I needed to decide what to do with my life.


Then I toured PCC's Diesel Service Technology program and immediately knew it was for me. Diesel engines help power the world, and I'll be qualified to work anywhere I want — on trucks, buses, boats, construction equipment, agricultural machinery, power generators, and so much more. I also got to visit PCC's Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center, where I encountered welding. And now I'm studying that, too. It's another skill in my diesel-tech toolbox.

“I feel like people don't talk enough about everything community college offers, especially the potential to learn a skilled trade.”

Best of all, the welding faculty connected me to advisors who helped me find a scholarship to pay for the equipment I needed to begin classes. Professional-grade tools aren't cheap and that scholarship really helped me and my mom be able to pay for school.

Looking forward, I want a successful, useful career. I want to work on diesel trucks or generators after graduation. The critical skills I'm learning here at PCC are the surest way to make that happen.”

D'Angelo Macedo Becker is a diesel technology student who is also studying welding. He is one of the recipients of the Fleet Fuels: Schaeffer Oil Diesel Scholarship. D'Angelo is excited to get a job that can help support his family when he graduates.



Todd Barnett
Lead Welding Instructor
for PCC's Mobile Welding
Outreach Program



Todd Barnett was instrumental in the partnership with Union Pacific to create PCC's Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center.



“For Union Pacific to continue thriving, we need a highly trained workforce.

That's why this partnership with PCC is essential; they're providing the skilled trades professionals we need to carry our business into the future. Welders are critical to our daily operations, repairing and changing rail at switches and other heavy traffic areas.

The Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center allows PCC to deliver skilled trades training directly to students in communities across the region, while also strengthening the workforce pipeline for major companies like Union Pacific. Students graduating with a certificate from PCC's Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center are eligible for a variety of welding positions on the railroad.

With a \$375,000 investment from Union Pacific over three years, the trailer was outfitted and the program was launched. A grant from Future Ready Oregon funded the tractor that pulls the trailer. Vigor Industrial provided a storage and staging area, as well as equipment and materials.

We're excited to continue this partnership with PCC and to keep supporting students.”

Aaron Hunt is Union Pacific's senior director, public affairs — Pacific Northwest. He led a Union Pacific delegation as the company scoped and defined a collaboration with PCC and Vigor Industrial to extend the reach of skilled trades training programs.

“I learned how to identify opportunities early on in life. My parents owned an antique store and I helped out there, spotting bargains.

A few years ago, I saw a 40' Union Pacific shipping container slated for the scrapyard and I knew just what to do. Ever since I learned high schools were shutting down their welding programs, I'd dreamt of a mobile welding center. I knew this could be a way to spark interest in a high-paying career full of opportunity — especially for students from rural or impoverished backgrounds like the one I grew up in.

Thanks to the PCC Foundation, Union Pacific and Vigor Industrial, we were able to fully realize the dream of a PCC Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center. When I got the

go-ahead to purchase the mobile unit, I dove right in. We yarded it out of the weeds, refurbished, repainted, and readied the trailer chassis for the road and then we powered the whole thing with a barely-used generator sourced from a demolished skyscraper.

PCC Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center in partnership with Union Pacific now provides on-site training across the region at community-based organizations, schools, on Tribal lands, and in correctional facilities. We currently have six welding booths, giving us the ability to serve six students at a time. However, staff can stagger groups so they can serve up to

15 to 20 students. The students receive a solid foundation of training to enable them to pass a specific weld test or transition into an associate degree path. After each session, I see a spark of excitement in my students' eyes.

Being an instructor and part of this project has been truly life-changing. I've met individuals who've endured unimaginable hardships, and I've witnessed them rediscover pride, purpose, and passion through their work. The mutual gratitude between students and teachers is unforgettable. PCC truly welds connections that strengthen communities.”

FOUNDATION PRIORITY: Igniting Workforce

We are dedicated to preparing a skilled, adaptable workforce that drives our region's economy forward.

The PCC Foundation forges strategic partnerships with industry partners to equip students with the resources and tools they need to succeed in today's rapidly changing job market. PCC's innovative programs are designed to meet the demands of local industries, offering students hands-on training and practical experience.

In 2023–24:



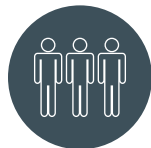
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Jobs in the Portland metro region supported by the activities of PCC



\$3.70

Higher future earnings for every dollar invested in PCC students' education — a rate of return of 17%



7,800

Students currently served through Career Pathways, PCC's short-term certificate programs



\$9,100

Increase in annual salary working in Oregon for the average graduate with an associate degree in comparison to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent

For more information about the PCC Mobile Welding & Skills Training Center, please visit pcc.edu/mobilewelding.

