

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Welding Program Expansion

Grant Program: Legislative

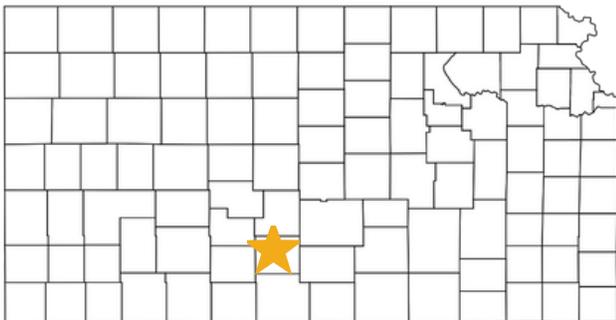
Project Date: Jul 2022 - Aug 2025

Project Summary

As a result of grant funding, Pratt Community College established a welding program at the Greensburg location, increasing access to postsecondary technical education for high school students. Grant funds also supported expansion of the welding program at the Pratt location through acquisition of welding equipment. This investment broadened instructional capacity beyond agricultural equipment repair to include welding applications relevant to additional industries, including aerospace, giving students exposure to a range of industry-aligned skills.

Location

Pratt, Kansas



Grantee Information

Pratt Community College is a two-year public, comprehensive community college offering associate degrees and certificates as well as career and technical programs. Popular programs include nursing, liberal arts, and welding.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Increase equitable access to high-quality, industry-aligned postsecondary technical education in welding.

Objective: Increase student exposure to and proficiency in industry-relevant welding skills that support postsecondary and career readiness.

Budget Overview

- Grant amount: \$778,445.00
- Match amount: \$778,445.00
- Total project budget: \$1,556,890.00

Expense categories

- Welding equipment: \$1,039,666.66
- Land acquisition: \$475,000.00
- Other relocation expenses: \$42,223.34

Target Population

The target population for this grant includes high school and community college students who will benefit from an expanded welding program closer to home, eliminating the need for long commutes to class.

Sustainability

The expansion of the welding program directly supports growth of the state's business and resident base by strengthening the skilled workforce pipeline in rural communities. By providing local access to college-level welding education, the program reduces outmigration of students who might otherwise leave the region to pursue training elsewhere. Students who earn credentials while still in high school are more likely to remain in-state for employment, contributing to long-term population retention and community stability.

Outcomes

- 18 high school students enrolled in the new dual enrollment program to date.
- 20 additional post-secondary students enrolled in the expanded program.
- 1.0 FTE hired as liaison with industry partners.

Activities and Timeline

Q3 2022 - Q3 2025: procurement activities for welding equipment

Q2 2025: establish electrical service to classroom building

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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