

Fremont Re-2 School District's Florence High School

Background

Perkins funding has furnished vital equipment for the school's four Welding courses: Applied Technology, Welding I, Welding II and Welding III. These courses cover: the basic fundamentals of small gas engines; rebuilding motors; designing/building a go-kart; care/use of hand tools; safety; GMAW, GTAW and oxy-acetylene cutting and welding, SMAW, MIG, TIG welding/related theory; fabricating specific weld designs; designing and manufacturing of metal products; metal art; outdoor projects; sales and marketing; and communication with the business community.

Key Innovation(s)

The Welding Department has worked with other departments in the School to *creatively integrate* offerings such as Art with Welding to attract non-traditional students (e.g., females). The Department interjects fun into curriculum via the use of creative and catchy project names. The Department has arranged for students to be eligible for *dual credit* from Pueblo Community College for completing its Welding II curriculum. Some student assignments also *benefit the local community* such as signs, saddle holders and gifts.

Key Factors to Implementation

The Department has strategically leveraged their Perkins funds in order to maximize the benefit obtained from a relatively small grant award.

The school's Welding department has elevated the District's CTE program by integrating math learning into its hands-on activities (e.g., the Department purchased new equipment to help kids learn math while welding.)

Another key factor to implementation has been the structural design of the new building housing the Department which provides the functionality necessary for a successful CTE program such as Welding.

RESULTS

The quality of the Welding Department has created strong community demand to employ its completers. The reputation of the Welding Department and major outreach efforts to middle schools has created a high demand for the number of available slots in the program. This has forced the program to become more selective due to limitations on space and availability of instructors.