

Workforce Training at Delaware Tech

BY ALLISON HAYES

WHILE DELAWARE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE is well known for its degree programs such as nursing and engineering technology, the College also offers a wide variety of workforce training for those looking to upgrade their skills or find a career path in a trade such as construction, plumbing, HVAC, welding or health care.

In each county throughout Delaware, the College has a training center that offers state-of-the-art, hands-on instruction in many different fields. These training centers include:

The Innovation and Technology Center (ITC) in New Castle, Delaware: The ITC is a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that teaches programs such as HVACR, welding, manufacturing technologies and OSHA safety. Training utilizes a range of learning systems from hands-on to e-learning laboratories to develop job-ready skill sets. Students put theory to practice in classrooms built to mirror the real world.

The Innovation and Technology Partnership Center (ITPC) in Bridgeville, Delaware: This facility located in western Sussex County accommodates manufacturing, HVACR, and construction training, including the Pathways program for high schools students to study advanced manufacturing.

The Environmental Training Center (ETC) in Georgetown, Delaware: The mission of the ETC is to provide applicable classroom training and onsite technical assistance to Delaware's environmental workforce.

Classroom training consists of credit and non-credit programs for onsite technicians, well drillers, water and wastewater operators, as well as sustainability professionals.

Included in the non-credit programs are courses which prepare operators, onsite technicians and well drillers to successfully complete the state's licensing examinations. These licenses are required to be employed within the industry. After becoming licensed, the ETC provides on-going continu-



ing education classes, seminars and workshops.

The Environmental Training Center has aggressively developed its Environmental Technology programs in water and wastewater to ensure the quality of this vital resource. The Center is now one of the premier training sites on the East Coast for the certification of water and wastewater operators. The College has been recognized internationally as a leader in environmental protection.

Middletown Facility for Construction and Diesel Mechanics (Coming Soon!): The College is currently renovating a 7,500 square foot space in the old armory in Middletown as a training center for heavy equipment operators and diesel mechanics. The goal is to open this Center of Excellence for Construction Trades in early 2019. Created due to workforce needs in the state, students will be able to earn stackable credentials to work in these high-demand fields.

"The need for this type of technical training cannot be underestimated," said Paul Morris, associate vice president for Workforce Development and Community Education at Delaware Tech. "The state has a demand for skilled workers, and Delaware Tech is stepping up to provide individuals with the training and credentials needed to secure these well-paying jobs. It's a win-win situation." ■