



Delaware Tech Opens Middletown Facility for Construction and Diesel Mechanics

BY ALLISON HAYES

WHEN WORKFORCE and college administrators at Delaware Technical Community College were approached by members of industry about a dire need for heavy equipment operators and diesel mechanics, they put their heads together to find a way to provide this training for the state of Delaware.

Middletown showed potential as a location for this training with its growing population and central location. Mayor Kenneth L. Branner, Jr. offered Delaware Tech an unused portion of Middletown's National Guard

armory building, which the College has renovated into a 7,500-square-foot training center where students will be able to earn stackable credentials to work in these high-demand fields.

The center will open in late summer and welcomes students who want to pursue a new career, or who want to earn the credentials they need to find a job.

"The need for this type of technical training cannot be underestimated," said Paul Morris, associate vice president for Workforce Development and



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Community Education at Delaware Tech. “The state has a demand for skilled workers within the construction and related fields, 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.”

Diesel Mechanics

Delaware Tech’s diesel mechanics training program will be the first of its kind in the state. A shortage of diesel mechanics led the College to investigate demand in the industry. They found a need for skilled workers and a shortage of trained mechanics, a critical issue to address since the Delmarva region’s diesel industry is projected to grow 17 percent over the next 10 years.

The Delaware Tech diesel mechanic program will be built around the certifications used by the industry. Students will be able to take courses to gain the knowledge and skills in preparation for the industry certification exams.

Construction

The 16-week heavy equipment operator training program was developed with industry experts in Delaware using the nationally recognized NCCER curriculum. Students will be taught how to perform on the job site as skilled craftsmen, as well as how to operate heavy equipment through classroom instruction, state-of-the-art simulation, and “in-the-seat” equipment operation. With an aging workforce and large percentage of operators within retirement age, this program is a timely addition to construction training within the state.

For more information on the Middletown Training Center or the diesel or construction programs, please call 302-266-3400 or contact Rodney Bailey at rodney.bailey@dtcc.edu. ■



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