

# Video: Introducing women to careers in manufacturing and mechanical



Guests tour Clark College's Diesel Technologies lab during an open house held in September 2021 to encourage women to explore careers in the advanced manufacturing and mechanical trades. *Photo: Jenny Shadley/Clark College*

On September 9, Clark College hosted a free workshop for women interested in advanced manufacturing and the mechanical trades on the college's main campus. More than 30 women attended the event, which included hands-on activities and tours of the college's Automotive, Diesel, and Welding labs, as well as the chance to speak with professors.

The following video, narrated by Interim Dean of Workforce Professional Technical Education & STEM, captures some of the excitement from the event as well as the motivation behind it. Properly trained technicians are in high demand in the advanced manufacturing and mechanical industries,

and these careers can be rewarding both financially and professionally. However, a recent study found that only 1 in 3 manufacturing professionals are women.

Two \$1,800 scholarships will be made available to students who attend this event and enroll in a Clark College Automotive, Diesel, or Welding program by fall 2022. One scholarship was made available by Madden Industrial Craftsmen, the other through an anonymous donor.

See more photos from the event on the college's Flickr site.

---

## Three new Career Launch programs



The welding technologies program is one of three Clark College

programs to receive certification as Career Launch partnerships.

Clark College recently received certification of three new Career Launch programs at the college.

The programs join six other Career Launch at the college. Career Launch is a Washington state program that provides students with opportunities to “earn as they learn” through partnerships between public educational institutions and local employers that provide meaningful, high-quality, and paid on-the-job experience as well as classroom learning.

Clark College’s new Career Launch programs are:

- a partnership with Beaches Restaurant, Bar and Catering to provide students with paid work experience as they earn an Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Cuisine Management
- a partnership with PeaceHealth to provide students with paid work experience as they earn a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Cybersecurity.
- a partnership with Madden Fabrication to provide students with paid work experience as they earn a degree in Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Welding Technologies.

These two programs join Clark College’s six already-existing Career Launch partnerships:

- an AAT in Mechanical Instrumentation (part of the Mechatronics program) in partnership with SEH America, Silicon Forest Electronics, Analog Devices, Inc., and Kyocera International, Inc.;
- an AAT in Toyota T-TEN Automotive in partnership with Toyota America Corporation;
- an AAT in HiTECC Automotive in partnership with Dick Hannah Dealerships;
- an Associate in Science – Transfer Track 2 (AST2) in Engineering in partnership with SEH America.

- an AAT in Professional Baking & Pastry Arts Management with Eurobake Bakery
- an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Surveying & Geomatics with MacKay Sposito

## **About Clark College**

Founded in 1933, Clark College provides residents of Southwest Washington with affordable, high-quality academic and technical education. It is a public community college offering more than 100 degree and certificate programs, including bachelor's and associate degrees; professional certificates; high school diplomas and GED preparation; and non-credit community and continuing education. Clark serves a wide range of students including high school students, displaced workers, veterans, parents, non-native English speakers, and mature learners. Approximately three-quarters of its students are in the first generation of their families to attend college.

## **About Career Launch**

Career Launch is a program of Career Connect Washington (CCW), an organization founded to bring industry and education together to provide pathways for young people to succeed in college and career. There are already 10,000 students enrolled in Career Launch programs, including Registered Apprenticeships. The recently passed 2021-2023 biennial budget provides additional resources for Career Connect Washington to reach more young people, especially those furthest from opportunity, at a time when they are so impacted by COVID-19.

---



# Exceptional Faculty Award spotlight: The tough-but- caring technician



Bakery instructor Alison Dolder shows off some of her students' work.

Alison Dolder has got to have, hands-down, the best-smelling classroom at Clark College. The Bakery instructor and interim department head spends much of her time guiding students as they work in the program's lab, which is also a fully functional bakery. Racks of pie shells and biscuits stand by the doorway, and the air is thick with the aromas of butter and sugar. Students in chef's whites stand at tables, making croissants and baguettes to be sold in the college's retail bakery in Gaiser Hall.

“The training here is very different from some culinary schools,” says Dolder. “Our students come in, and the very first day they’re put in their station and they’re forming, they’re cutting—everything they’ll be doing for the next two weeks till they switch stations. It’s as close to a production bakery as we can get. When they get out and enter the job market, they don’t require as much training [as other new graduates] because they’re used to the fast pace. They’re ready to jump right in.”

It’s that combination of practicality and enthusiasm—combined with empathy and support—that prompted students to nominate Dolder for the 2014-2015 Exceptional Faculty Award. “I joined the baking program on a whim and it has come to be the greatest decision of my life,” wrote one student in her nomination. “I feel like I can be not only the best baker or the best businesswoman around, but I can be the best of myself at all times, and for that I am grateful. Ms. Alison is so encouraging at times, she is tough at times, she is compassionate at times, and she can challenge you daily.”



Dolder encourages her students to express their creativity, whether

it's through  
experimenting with  
whole-wheat  
croissant dough or  
designing a  
steampunk-inspired  
layer cake.

Dolder came to baking almost by accident. She'd started college as a zoology major, but didn't enjoy the math and chemistry courses and decided to leave school to regroup. "My husband was going to school full-time and working full-time, and so just as something to do, I took a cake-decorating class," she says. "It turns out I was really good at it."

Dolder worked in bakeries and taught cake decoration for more than a decade before deciding to return to school to learn her craft in-depth. Ironically, what appealed to her most was the chemistry involved. "I love how you can take all these ingredients and turn them into something else, something delicious," she says.

Dolder graduated from Clark's bakery program in 2000 and quickly landed a job at the nationally known Pearl Bakery in Portland. But while she loved the work, she realized it wasn't compatible with having two young children. "I was really lucky to work with [former Pearl head baker and current Little T owner] Tim Healea, but it was 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.," she says. When a teaching position opened up at Clark, she decided to apply.

Dolder makes sure her students understand the realities of life as a professional baker. "I tell them, 'Don't believe everything you see on TV,'" she says. "You know, there's that illusion that 'I'm going to start baking cakes and get my own show and be famous.' Baking is hard work."

Dolder is happy to have returned to Clark to share her love

and knowledge of baking with today's students. She's looking forward to doing so in the college's soon-to-be-remodeled Culinary Arts wing. "It's so exciting," she says. "I'm looking forward to introducing a new cohort model for our program in a shiny new facility." A shiny new facility that, in short order, will probably once again turn into the best-smelling classroom on campus.

Learn about other recipients of the 2014-2015 Exceptional Faculty Awards.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*