

# Luna Community College Welding Program gets boost from Title V initiative

The Luna Community College Welding Program has helped produce many students become job-ready. After an investment of \$613,912 from the Luna Community College Title V Department which included new equipment, tools, supplies, renovation of the facility and a stipend for training faculty to incorporate technology into the curriculum, the welding program is now ready to reach new heights.

“We now have one of the best programs in New Mexico,” said Luna Community College Welding Instructor Donnie Adkins. “I’ve been told this by a senior welding inspector from the American Welding Society (AWS).”

Adkins says that the new equipment includes welders, filtered welding tables, plasma cutters, welding simulators and metal working equipment.

“This was a major upgrade that had not been done in a long time,” said Adkins. “Now a student can come to Luna Community College, get fully trained and develop the skills necessary to get a job. Students have a choice of working for several business manufactures that are waiting for skilled welders.”

According to a report from CBS News they did in October after Hurricane Harvey devastated the city of Houston, there was not enough skilled workers to hire including certified welders. According to Skills Trades in Demand, there are 403,100 jobs available for welding, soldering and braz-



**Luna Community College student Raul Ramirez, age 27, of Las Vegas, NM stands next to welding simulators purchased by Title V.**

ing workers.

“Title V is very excited to have been a part of enhancing vocational programs at Luna Community College,” said Luna Community College Title V Director Veronica Serna. “It’s become evident that the trend shows there is a demand for skilled labor. Over the past few years, jobs are becoming more available as companies are losing their employees to retirement leaving opportunities for the younger generation.”

Five welding simulators that were recently purchased are very popular with Luna Community College students. This piece of equipment simu-

lates arc and mig welding as well as practice welding positions.

“It’s awesome,” said Luna Community College student Raul Ramirez, age 27, of Las Vegas, NM. “It’s a great opportunity to learn this trade. One of my friends recommended me to attend Luna Community College and I recommend this school to all my friends.”

Adkins says that when a Luna Community College student earns their AWS credentials, their names are entered into a national database so employees can look them up as certified welders. Since fall 2013, 129 Luna Community College students taught by Adkins, have passed their American Welding Society certification.

For more information on the Luna Community College Welding Program call Adkins at 505/454-2589.