Las Positas Contact Information

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WomenTechWorld.org

Welcome to the Women's Technician Club!

The national online home for women technicians to connect with each other

WomenTechWorld.org: You're not alone any more. Check out all of the great resources that WomenTechWorld has to offer female technicians, whether you are a network administrator, an air conditioning and refrigeration technician or a female student in a tech major.

WomenTechTalk: Join the exciting WomenTech e-mail discussion group today! There's finally a great way to meet other women just like you through conversations that take place right in your email. WomenTech Talk serves as a source of support and inspiration for over 500 women and has been in existence since 2000.

E-Jobs: Find employers eager to hire women in traditionally male occupations. E-Jobs offers you an Auto Notify feature which gives you email notices when new jobs meeting your criteria have been posted.

E-Mentoring: It's hard to be a newbie, but it just became a little bit easier. E-Mentors connects female students in technology/trades with women successfully working in male-dominated fields.

The CalWomenTech Project is Funded by The Program for Research on Gender in Science and Engineering from The National Science Foundation - Grant no. 0533564

Be sure to visit us at

http://www.womentechworld.org/LasPositas

Automotive and Welding Associations

Automotive Technology Associates has local East Bay meetings on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to attend to network with people in the field. Contact Automotive Instructor Brian Hagopian (bhagopian@laspositas.edu) for more information.

The **American Welding Society** sets standards for welding, and offers opportunities for professional education, networking, certification, and career development. www.aws.org

Las Positas College and the CalWomenTech Project

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www.laspositascollege.edu
www.laspositascollege.edu/WELD
www.laspositascollege.edu/AUTO

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

Women in Automotive and Welding Technology are in High Demand

Read on to see how Las Positas College and the CalWomenTech Project can help you start a career in these high-paying fields.

Las Positas College
and the
CalWomenTech Project

www.womentechworld.org/LasPositas

Automotive and Welding Technology @ Las Positas College

Automotive

Career Path: Graduates of the A.S. degree program or the certificate programs can expect to find employment in car dealerships doing car repair, or with an after-market employer such as a small repair shop, parts store, or tire shop. With experience, workers can advance into jobs with greater responsibility and perform more complex repairs. Some graduates continue their education and get a bachelor's degree, which makes them more eligible for management positions.

Nature of the Work: Because so many elements of today's cars are computerized and involve intricate wiring, about 60% of auto repair work relates to electrical components. Auto technicians assess car problems and consult with online service guides for repair guidelines before making repairs. The non-electrical work involves repairs to suspension, brakes, and engine work. The work is not physically demanding for the most part; when heavy lifting, pushing or pulling is required, workers call on others for help or use equipment to meet the heavier physical demands.

Specific Jobs Available to Graduates: Automotive jobs include automotive technician/mechanic, service writer, parts salesperson and tire installation and repair person.

Degrees and Certificates offered: Certificate of Achievement: Automotive Service Technician (22 units required); Certificate of Achievement: Automotive Technician (35.5 units required); A.S. Degree: Automotive Technology (60 units required).

Welding

Career Path: Some graduates find satisfying life-long careers as welding operators. Others use welding as a stepping stone to supervisory and leadership positions in companies or manufacturing facilities. Graduates with the A.S. degree make good candidates for roles such as shop and plant superintendents, which require both technical and people skills.

Nature of the Work: Welders evaluate the project at hand, select the type of process and materials, then use either a bright light from an electric arc or heat from a gas flame to heat materials to a liquefied or molten state, and then fuse them together. Welders must consistently produce high quality welds, since they must withstand pressure and weight bearing.

Specific Jobs Available to Graduates: Welding jobs include entry-level welder (working on non-critical parts as skills develop), skilled welder (for graduates with work experience).

Degrees and Certificates offered: Certificate Of Achievement in Welding Technology (23 units required); A.S. degree in Welding Technology (60 units required).

Women's Success Stories

Lauren Van Maren

Employed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

"We women are out there. We may not be front and center, but we're out there and I think it's great. If you want to do something different in life, why not?"

Average Wage at Placement	**Automotive:** $14 per hour **Welding:** $15 per hour, rising to $20 within two to three years
Average Wage:	**Automotive:** $25 to $35 per hour **Welding:** $25 to $30 per hour
Placement Rate:	**Automotive**: Although exact placement rates are not available, 50 to 75% of Las Positas students find placements while they are still taking classes in the Automotive Technology program. Others go on to a four-year degree or pursue a different career direction. **Welding**: Most students find a job within four to six months of leaving school, many within just two to three months.
Labor Market:	**Automotive**: The labor market for automotive technology is excellent, with many job openings. Approximately 75% of students are placed before graduation. As cars become increasingly controlled by electronic devices, graduates with this technical training are in great demand. **Welding**: The labor market looks excellent for welders, with the majority of jobs centered in industrial areas. A shortage of welders is expected to occur in five to ten years, due to retirements and attrition. Currently enrolled students will not be able to meet this demand, so plenty of work is expected.

FAQs—Career and Academic

Are employers hiring for jobs in this area?

Yes, they are! In fact, 50 to 75 percent of the **Automotive Technology** graduates are placed well before they graduate from the program. California has more cars per capita than most states, and there are many cars and auto repair shops. Las Positas also works with an advisory board with local industry partners to develop career opportunities for students.

Welding Technology graduates, especially those with work experience, are in great demand because many welders are leaving the job market due to retirements and attrition. Students who work while in school can make themselves more attractive candidates for employment.

Can I pursue a career in this field without a background in technology?

Yes, definitely! You don't really need a background in technology to enter these programs. It does help if you know how to use the Windows operating system. Fortunately, the automotive and welding programs have a lot of hands-on training in their labs, so you'll be able to apply each of the technologies you're learning in real-life situations.

How much math do I really need?

There are no math prerequisites for these programs. However, if you're entering the **Automotive Technology** program, it does help to have a basic understanding of geometry. For the **Welding Technology** program, it's good for students to know how to use fractions and decimals, measuring tools, and a calculator. For more advanced positions involving fabrication, basic elements of geometry, trigonometry, and algebra will be useful.

How can I prepare for the program if I don't have a background in technology?

Since much of the **Automotive Technology Program** is focused on electrical and electronic issues, taking an electrical course and learning all you can in advance about the inner electrical workings of computers will also give you a head start in your classes.

You will learn the technology you need for the **Welding Technology Program** from the courses in the program.