



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Fluor Donates to SCC

Partnerships with business and industry have provided numerous benefits for Goose Creek CISD students, and the opportunities keep increasing.

Fluor Corporation recently selected Goose Creek CISD as the feature site for their marketing and publications. Alison Carlino, a photographer who specializes in industrial photography, visited the John M. Stuart Career Center (SCC) campus last week to take some action shots of students welding.

Fluor began a partnership with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in GCCISD in the fall of 2013 and has supported the program through donations as well as mentorship. The first donation in November 2013, presented by Barbara Jones and Rhonda Glover of Fluor, involved delivery of \$5,786.68 in supplies and machinery to SCC, with the donation of a Miller 350 XMT welding machine valued at over \$4,000. The rest of the donation consisted of welding rods, grinding discs and other materials necessary to prepare students to enter the high-demand, high-wage, high-tech field of welding. These supplies are being used in John Membreno's welding classes at SCC.

The most recent donation, provided by AMECO, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fluor, in November 2014, provided more than \$3,800 in supplies and machinery for Membreno's welding class. Supplies, such as grinding discs, wire wheels, plate steel sheets, pipe, electro rods and a Miller CTS 280 welding machine have allowed the program to expand. Membreno began teaching this class in the fall of 2013, with 55 students, and this year, he has 81 students. He anticipates that the program will continue to grow.

"The oil and natural gas field is expanding rapidly, and because of this, welders are in high demand," said Membreno. "Thanks to Fluor's commitment to our partnership, I can better prepare my students on the latest welding machine technology."

Steve Jones, senior talent and development specialist, along with Barbara Jones and Glover, have made multiple visits to SCC to mentor students and discuss opportunities for graduating seniors at Fluor as well as at other companies along the Gulf Coast.

"We are pleased to have the Fluor Corporation as a partner. Our students who are in the welding training program will be at an advantage when they graduate because they are coming from a partner school," said Renea Dillon, director of Career and Technical Education.

In an effort to support CTE welding students from along the Gulf Coast and surrounding areas, Fluor and Shell Oil Products Company, LLC, Deer Park, provided materials to hold the region's annual SkillsUSA contest in January at San Jacinto College Central in Pasadena, Texas.



Stuart Career Center (SCC) students (from left) Adonis Zamora from Robert E. Lee High School and Raul Longoria from Ross S. Sterling High School, practice their welding technique. Longoria won 2nd place in Advanced Welding at the SkillsUSA Regional competition, and he will compete at the state level in Corpus Christi March 26. [View photo gallery here.](#)

"SkillsUSA is an annual event that gathers all the best welding students from area high schools," said organizers Membreno and Zeek Garcia of Pasadena ISD. "The goal of the event is to showcase our best students by getting them ready for the workforce and shortening the training time for employers."

To further prepare students for post-secondary opportunities, Stuart Career Center offers National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) classes and arranges for students to obtain American Welding Society (AWS) certifications.

"These students will have a credential that is nationally-recognized by the construction industry through a National Registry database. The National Registry provides transcripts, certificates and wallet cards to students who successfully complete the NCCER curriculum," said Dillon.

As the CTE program expands in response to workforce demand, more opportunities are being provided for GCCISD students. The internship programs with Bayer and Austin Industrial have been successful, and last year CBI joined GCCISD as a partner. This year, Turner Industries, Jacobs, and several other companies have contacted Dillon to offer similar opportunities for GCCISD graduates.

"More than 200 students in all areas of CTE have been hired by local employers as our CTE programs continue to focus on local workforce needs and building the employability skills of our students," said Dillon.

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Physical Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
4544 Interstate 10 East  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
P.O. Box 30  
Baytown, Texas 77522  
281.420.4800

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