



Starke County Economic Development Foundation
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**STARKE COUNTY INITIATIVE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (SCILL)
OFFERS TWO HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

KNOX, Ind., August 14, 2014- Have you ever dreamt about seeking to start a new career, but did not know how to receive the necessary training to do so? Well, SCILL changes lives, one person at a time. Through SCILL and their partners, they provide Starke County with customized training for area industries to meet their specific needs, vocational high school programs in automotive and welding technology, an adult program in welding technology, computer software training, and literacy programs. SCILL's mission is to offer learning opportunities that are close by, flexible, and promptly responsive to the needs of employers, employees, the underemployed, the discouraged and the unemployed for Starke County, the City of Knox, and the towns of Hamlet and North Judson.

One program SCILL offers is a Vocational Welding Technology program. This is a two-year course designed for juniors and seniors in high school. Participants are instructed on blueprint reading/symbols, welding measurements, safety, MIG/TIG/Stick welding, aluminum welding, stainless welding, rolled pipe welding, oxy acetylene welding, flat/angle/vertical up & down/horizontal and overhead steel welding, brazing, plasma cutting, and oxy fuel burning. Upon completion, students earn high school credits for graduation and can receive additional dual transferable college credit at no additional cost to the student. The cost of tuition to this SCILL program is paid by the student's own school corporation. Book rental and a welding kit are NOT included in program tuition.

The SCILL Vocational Welding Technology Program utilizes AWS certified instructors who bring a great deal of hands-on knowledge to the classroom and lab. They are highly trained both in teaching and in their knowledge of welding and the various welding techniques.

SCILL has been proven to provide individuals with many opportunities based on their knowledge and skills. Tyler Wilke, of Knox, had originally heard about the SCILL Vocational Welding Technology Program through his guidance counselor in high school. After completing the two year program, he is now a full time employee at Kruz Manufacturing located in Knox. He applauded the program, stating the instructors are involved in finding locations to work after graduation.

Another program SCILL offers is a Vocational Automotive Technology Program. This is a two year, half day program in which students from area high schools may elect to participate. Junior and senior students attend their high school for half a day, participate in sports and extra-curricular activities, and spend the other half at SCILL. In this program, students learn the areas of instruction in brakes, electrical/electronic systems, engine performance, suspension and steering, automatic transmission and transaxle, engine repair, heating and air conditioning, and manual drive train and axles. After completion, the students leave SCILL with the ability to make decisions and solve problems, visualize components, and make precise adjustments.

The SCILL Vocational Automotive Technology Program instructors are both graduates of the SCILL program, and both also took further training from Lincoln Tech and Ivy Tech after graduation. Both also worked in the industry prior to becoming SCILL instructors. Both either have or are working on obtaining ASE certifications in all 8 areas of instruction.

Graduates of the Vocational Automotive Technology Program attaining some Automotive Service Excellence Student Certification have been actively recruited by automotive groups and the armed forces, as well as NASCAR. Students will graduate with workforce ready skills. The skills learned during this two year program provide students with a strong foundation for continuing education as well.

Doug Beem, of Knox, has recently graduated from the vocational automotive technology program. He enjoyed the hands on projects most, while learning about his future career. Doug is currently enrolled at Lincoln College of Technology, where he will earn a degree in Auto Technology. After earning his degree, Doug hopes to work for Ford Motor.

If interested in enrolling in the SCILL Vocational Welding Technology Program or Vocational Automotive Technology Program, contact your high school counselor, contact SCILL directly, or use the online application found at www.scill.biz or www.ncavc.info . Students will be exposed to internship opportunities with local businesses, which will help to further solidify their career path and increase their experience for employment after graduation and possible employment with local and area businesses.

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