

Clarion University of Pennsylvania

# Continuing Education

## Guaranteed Free Training Program (WEDnetPA) 2008-2009

Since beginning in 1999, the Guaranteed Free Training (GFT) Program offered through WEDnetPA has grown to become the primary delivery system for Pennsylvania's incumbent workforce training. Each year, WEDnetPA partners continue to reach out to significant numbers of Pennsylvania companies and employees—strengthening our workforce, and in turn, strengthening Pennsylvania's economy.

The GFT program allows qualified companies to receive grant funding to train their employees. Companies have access to funding for a wide range of basic skills and information technology training. Employers select the type of training

programs that are most important for their company and the most qualified provider for the training. This employer-driven approach has led to the high success of the program.

Clarion University, through the Division of Continuing Education, has been a WEDnet partner since the program began and has had the privilege of helping to shape the direction of the program. Over the years, Juanice Vega, Continuing Education Director, has represented Clarion University and companies in Northwest Pennsylvania on each committee level within the WEDnet structure while Sharon Bauer works diligently with companies to walk them through the invoicing process.

To date, Continuing Education has managed 901 contracts with regional businesses and has issued them more than \$4.1 million in training reimbursements. This money has gone directly into the hands of companies in Northwest PA. By providing training networks and reimbursement opportunities that are responsive to employer's workforce development needs, Clarion University's Continuing Education office continues to help regional businesses improve worker knowledge and productivity, leading to more efficient and competitive companies in our region.

For more information, please contact our office.

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For a current listing of classes, go to:  
[www.clarion.edu/ce](http://www.clarion.edu/ce)

## Continuing Education Receives State \$\$ for Customized Welding Training

In October 2008, Continuing Education received a Customized Job Training grant (CJT) to facilitate the delivery of customized welding training for companies in Northwest PA. The available training funds are in excess of \$300,000.

Training may be delivered in various formats, but must

include multiple companies and must be customized to meet the needs of their welding processes.

Since receiving the funding, two programs have been offered. The first was offered in October in Erie and was delivered by Clarion University utilizing QIS Inc. The second program was

offered by Precision Manufacturing Institute in January in Crawford County. A total of six companies have been involved.

The funding will be available through June 30, 2010.

Anyone interested in learning more about this funding should contact Juanice Vega at [jvega@clarion.edu](mailto:jvega@clarion.edu).