



Tulsa Welding School

Tulsa Welding School (TWS) was founded in 1949 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, by two welders to meet the demand for skilled tradespeople in the welding industry. Since then, TWS has become a multi-campus institution that trains students in the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for entry-level positions in the skilled trades. TWS graduates are employed in all 50 states, according to TWS' annual report. In Tulsa, TWS staff, its students and its employer partners remain dedicated to offering individuals in the community the chance to forge a brighter future through skills-based education while contributing to the city's development and playing a vital role in preparing the next generation of Tulsa's workforce. This staple of the community both figuratively and literally helped build the foundation and infrastructure of the city it calls home.

Today, TWS offers hands-on training through its Professional Welder program, Refrigeration Technologies program, Electrical Applications program, Electro-Mechanical Technologies program and an Associate of Occupational Studies in Welding Technology.

"Our experienced staff works closely with all students to help them achieve their educational and career goals. We believe it's important for students to learn from professionals who have in-depth industry and hands-on knowledge to help develop their skills," says Campus President Shalisa Powell, Ed.D. "From the moment a prospective student contacts TWS to learn more about our programs through the day they graduate and beyond, they will be accommodated, mentored and assisted by trained professionals dedicated to a students' well-being and satisfaction."

For the past 75 years, TWS has remained on the cutting edge of industry advancements, ensuring students are prepared to enter the field with the most current industry knowledge. "As the industry continues to evolve, we have also made significant efforts to make the trades a more diverse and inclusive place for people of all backgrounds," Powell says. "From scholarships to on-campus support and resources, TWS aims to break down any barriers in access to education and empower individuals to reach their full potential. What was once a male-dominated industry has now seen significant growth from diverse and underserved communities, especially women who now make up 10.8% of the construction industry workforce, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics."

The future is now with TWS and its virtual reality training program called OcuWeld. The program, designed by Tulsa Welding School faculty, allows students to practice their training

anywhere, on-demand using Meta's Oculus Quest 2 technology. OcuWeld was designed to meet the changing needs of our students and their future employers while teaching students new skills and increasing access to education.

"Over the past 75 years, we have continued to expand upon that mission by bridging the skilled labor gap caused by retirements and aligning with future needs from employers to ensure our students are trained in the latest industry technology and standards," Powell says. "By leaning into our strong roots while staying ahead of industry innovations, Tulsa Welding School has stood the test of time."

In 2008 StrataTech acquired Tulsa Welding School and since then has expanded programming and opened new campuses — in Jacksonville, Florida; Houston and Irving, Texas — to meet the growing demand for skilled tradespeople.