



**ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2007

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**The State Board of Education Approves Training Funds for
JF Ingram State Technical College**

Montgomery, Alabama – JF Ingram State Technical College has received an award from the Department of Postsecondary Education in the amount of \$169,000. This award was approved for allocation at the State Board of Education Meeting held on Oct. 25. The funding will allow the college to continue a Workforce Development Project, which provides short-term training in welding to incarcerated students.

Conducted three times per year, the program provides 24 hours of instruction per week. Class sizes range from 15-20 students. All students participating in this program are approaching release from prison. Over a period of sixteen weeks, non-welders learn important skills in the shielded metal arc and flux core welding processes. These skills are necessary to pass the American Welding Society's certification examinations which focus primarily on unlimited thickness plate welding in the vertical and overhead positions.

Upon completion of the program and release from incarceration, graduates are placed in welding jobs throughout the State of Alabama. Graduates are primarily employed in shipyards, marinas, construction companies, and power plants, with starting pay ranging from \$12.00 to \$21.00 per hour. Funds from the award are used to pay for consumable supplies and equipment such as welding gasses and filler material, grinders and welding

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machines, as well as the instructor's salary. For more information about the welding program please contact James Merk, dean of Instruction at (334) 290-3254.

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