



## Black Hawk College and John Deere: Building on a History of Working Together.

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- Jon Lambert, Professor Emeritus
- Lee Blackmon, Engineering Technology Faculty
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John Deere's Worldwide Product Development  
Center for Seeding and Harvesting

# History – Since 1978

- John Deere approached BHC 35 years ago with a concept to develop and train top grade experimental test technicians, with an employee designation of Experimental Grade – Level 13 better known as: X- 13.
- Individuals for training came directly from the John Deere production lines.
- BHC was asked to train 6 – 10 of these individuals annually.
- Program length was 45 credit hours.

- In 1990 a 2 year, minimum 64 credit hour AAS Electromechanical Technology degree was developed to meet the need for advanced training.
- In AY 2013, 60 John Deere employees were enrolled in at least one course.
- Currently in AY 2014, 72 John Deere employees are enrolled in fall courses with 30 – 45 anticipated for spring.
- BHC is moving towards the creation of an Experimental Technology Certificate.

# It Gets Technical



Hydraulics and Pneumatics  
Logic Systems I and II  
Engineering Materials

Fundamentals of AC Power  
Mechatronics I and II  
Statics & Strength of Materials

# Components of the Partnership

- John Deere technicians can now be the technical experts for new product testing in the field – worldwide.
- “Learn to Earn” – Employees receive monetary increases based on the number of approved BHC courses completed.
- Highly motivated students and employees with broader skillsets.
- Resource sharing and access to cutting edge instructional equipment.



- Future Focus: Anticipating the educational needs to meet the demands of new and changing technologies.



- Providing the expertise, facilities, and equipment to meet these needs.



- Provide flexible, world-class programs and curriculum, on-demand to support the needs of industry and employees earning up to \$28/hr.



- From “Learn to Earn” to “Learn to Burn”

# BHC Non-Credit Welding

- Developed 10 years ago from a direct request by John Deere.
- Non-credit, 140 hour program, 20 hrs/wk, 7 weeks.
- \$1810
- In 2013 we have held 15 sessions, served 174 students with 2160 instructional contact hours.
- Area employers have stated that 70% of their new welding hires come directly from this program. Many of these employers regularly attend welding graduations.



- 97% of our graduates pass the employers pre-employment welding test the first time.



- Two of our most recent welding graduates
- It's not just for the guys anymore.



## The Future

- Growing opportunities
- Growing Business
- Working Together