

## The National Center for Welding Education and Training **Weld-Ed Resource Center Facebook Group**

The new Weld-Ed Facebook group exclusively for secondary and postsecondary welding instructors from across the United States “Weld-Ed Resource Center” already has 134 members.



## **Best Practices in Welding Technician Education**

To complement the new Weld-Ed Resource Center Facebook group, Regional Partner Dan Turner hosted weekly Welding Educator webinars featuring industry presenters highlighting the latest tools in welding education.

## **Weld-Ed COVID-19 Survey and Recommendations**

333 welding educators responded to the survey in May 2020 representing 44 States. An excerpt of the COVID Survey Findings and Recommendations Report is below.

### **Key Findings**

At the time the survey was conducted (May 2020) 93.3% or 308 schools were closed as a result of Covid-19. Instructors taught in a variety of school settings including Universities (1%), Community Colleges (21%), Technical Schools (22%), High Schools (52%), and Industry (1%).

83.3% of the instructors were providing online instruction. However, only 21% or 66 respondents indicated that student participation in class was between 90% and 100%. 28.9% or 89 respondents indicated that less than 50% of their students were participating.

The predominant video conferencing platform was Zoom with use by 42.5% of the respondents. However, Google platforms (Hangout, Classroom, Meetings) was also commonly used. systems (LMS) with video conferencing platforms.

### **Recommendations**

1. Resume face-to-face classes with the appropriate protection in place to allow for the safety of students, faculty, and staff.
2. Develop a strategy to assure internet access for all students
3. The third recommendation concerns the instructors, provide professional development to prepare instructors for online teaching.
4. Standards for social distancing, laboratory population, disinfection, responsibility for disinfecting equipment, required personal protection equipment, and student movement needs to be developed and enforced.
5. The final recommendation is for organizations that develop content for welding instructors. As welding content materials are produced and professional development courses are developed, design the materials for use in the classroom and online. Some additional student learning objectives, strategies for both in-class and online motivation, learning activities that may easily be adapted to an LMS, listings of robust online resources, and secure evaluation methods is a start.