

**For Immediate Release**

October 31, 2022

Contact: Dr. Cynthia Marland, Director of Adult Education

[cmarland@oldcolony.info](mailto:cmarland@oldcolony.info)

Phone-508.763.8011 ext.220

**Rochester, MA: Old Colony Technical Institute launches FREE Culinary and Welding Training Programs**

Career opportunities await you. Improve your vocational skills, secure training, and let us assist you with job placement. Old Colony Regional Vocational High School has forged an ongoing partnership with MassHire, Greater New Bedford Workforce Board, and the New Bedford Career Center. Together, they have successfully coordinated two adult education courses in Welding and Culinary Arts through the newly established Old Colony Technical Institute (OCTI).

Each of these hands-on courses will engage you in a basic understanding of these trades and address the shortage of qualified and skilled tradespeople in the fields. As a student you will have an opportunity to gain vocational hands on experience, followed by local job placement.

The two hundred hour welding program is intended as an introduction to the field of Welding. Students will gain knowledge and skills in several welding areas which include Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Gas Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc welding, Stick Welding, and Basic Blueprint Reading. They will also receive their OSHA 10 and Hot Works certifications.

Students in the two hundred hour Culinary Arts program will gain skills in food handling and safety, meal planning, food preparation, and hospitality in a traditional brick and mortar restaurant setting. There will be an opportunity to gain up to 25 hours in work experience with the local employers. Upon graduation, students will have completed OSHA 10, Serve Safe food, and Safe Serve Allergen Certifications.

The mandatory orientation at Old Colony for qualified applicants will be Jan 10, 2023, at 4:30. This is a free opportunity but, space is limited to ten individuals per class, so you must apply in advance. The OCTI program will begin January 17 through April 5, 2022. Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 9:30 PM at Old Colony for a ten week training, followed by an externship at outside placements. The on site training will end on April 5, 2023.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Cynthia Marland at [cmarland@oldcolony.info](mailto:cmarland@oldcolony.info) or call 508.763.8011 ext.220

###