EMPLOYERS OFFER TRAINING!

South Seattle College’s Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program has formed a partnership with some of the area’s largest diesel employers to offer training for a diesel mechanic career. Called the Diesel Industrial Sector Cohort (DISC), most students in this seven quarter program are sponsored by an employer with an eye towards employment before the student completes the program.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE PROGRAM

At the end of the program, students will earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technician, well-prepared to enter the workforce. Classes run from 2pm to 7pm, Monday - Friday. This schedule allows students to work while in the program.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

DISC provides a foundation of skills that are needed to enter into the industry as a pro under the guidance of South’s instructors. This learning is complemented by hands-on opportunities that are provided by sponsoring companies in the industry. As a sponsored student, you can be offered a paid internship that allows you to get ahead of the learning curve, familiarizing yourself with products and company culture. You are also provided with regular constructive feedback throughout the program to remain on track for future employment.

PAYING FOR THE PROGRAM

Employers select sponsored students from a pool of applicants who qualify for Federal and State Workforce funds. The selection process takes place on a set date prior to the academic year. These funding sources pay the cost of the DISC program until the student becomes an employee. There is no cost to an employer or student for the first two quarters of the program. Employees who attend the program are responsible for their training costs. Employers may have programs that pay or reimburse employees for training and educational programs.

HELP WANTED

DISC was created in response to industry demand. It builds a foundation of skills that are needed for heavy equipment and diesel mechanics, and students learn on the job training which rapidly excels the process and provides job ready skills.

“If we were to train these employees individually it would take us six years; with this program we can do it in (less than) two years,” Larry Phillips, a recruiter from Papé explained. “Our company has expectations to be the best – and we want our people to be the best. It’s really critical for us – and really our competitors too – to get these students involved early and get their skills and interest up to speed. They are the future of the business, and it’s growing.”

EARNING POWER

Average entry level = $38,279.
3 to 5 years of experience = $53,058.
Veteran field diesel mechanics can earn between $65,000 and $75,000 a year. Information courtesy of Washington Career Bridge

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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