



## **New England Tech Unveils State-of-the-Art Welding Training Lab to Address Continued Workforce Demand**

*Expansion comes at a pivotal time as the need for skilled welders and training facilities continues to increase throughout Rhode Island and beyond*

**EAST GREENWICH, R.I. - April 16, 2025** - New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) celebrated the grand opening of its new 15-booth welding training lab at the university's Post Road Campus in Warwick. The ribbon-cutting ceremony brought together federal and state officials, industry leaders, and education partners to recognize this significant investment in workforce development.

The event featured remarks from Governor Dan McKee, U.S. Senator Jack Reed, U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner, Senator Louis DiPalma, as well as representatives from General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB), SENEDIA, and NEIT leadership. Guests toured the new facility and learned more about NEIT's longstanding commitment to training the next generation of skilled tradespeople.

"Strengthening our workforce today leads to economic prosperity tomorrow," said **Governor Dan McKee**. "Helping the next generation of Rhode Island workers develop skills and get good-paying jobs sets them, their families, our businesses, and our state up for success. I'm thankful for the strong private-public partnership Rhode Island has when it comes to efforts to raise incomes and put more people on the Rhode to Prosperity."

"The surest path to a better future is investing in people. I'm proud to support and strengthen workforce development programs in the Ocean State that help connect Rhode Islanders to good-paying jobs in high-demand fields," said **U.S. Senator Jack Reed**. "The submarine workforce pipeline in Rhode Island is critical to the success of our submarine programs and to our state's economy. Thanks to the New England Institute of Technology's cutting-edge welding lab and its collaboration with SENEDIA and Electric Boat, more students will gain skills for good jobs that strengthen our communities and support the brave men and women who will serve aboard these vessels around the world."

Since 2016, NEIT has collaborated with SENEDIA, GDEB, and suppliers for the maritime industrial base to offer workforce training in welding, ship fitting, and machining. Welding in particular continues to see high demand, with over 1,600 new welding hires trained through NEIT's Center for Technology and Industry. With the addition of this new lab, NEIT now operates four welding training facilities, increasing its annual training capacity from 420 to 600 new welders. In total, more than 3,000 individuals have been trained across all trades through these programs.

"This new welding lab at NEIT is a big step for Rhode Island's local workforce," said **Representative Seth Magaziner**. "Programs like this one give Rhode Islanders the hands-on training they need to take on good-paying jobs in manufacturing, marine trades, and beyond—strengthening the local economy and keeping talent here at home."



"Through our strong partnerships with SENEDIA and Electric Boat, NEIT is preparing individuals for high-demand careers while strengthening Rhode Island's workforce," said Steven Kitchin, Vice President and Special Assistant to the President at NEIT.

The expansion comes at a pivotal time, as Electric Boat and the submarine industrial base continue to grow, requiring a strong pipeline of skilled workers. This investment ensures that Rhode Island remains a leader in workforce development and career-focused education.

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**About New England Tech:**

New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) is a private, non-profit institution located in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Established in 1940, NEIT offers a wide range of career-focused degree programs at the Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's levels across fields including skilled trades, engineering, computer science, health sciences, cybersecurity, digital media and more. With a strong focus on experiential learning, NEIT prepares students by combining hands-on training with small class sizes and accelerated degree options, so graduates enter the workforce faster and excel in their chosen careers.

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