Workshops for Warriors® graduates earn nationally recognized credentials in just 16 weeks.
Workshops for Warriors (WFW) is a fully-audited, board-governed 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our mission is to provide quality hands-on training, accredited STEM educational programs, and opportunities to earn third-party nationally recognized credentials to enable veterans, transitioning service members, and other students to be successfully trained and placed in their chosen manufacturing career field.
Dear Supporters,

2020 was a year that put us all to the test. Challenging times and our responses to adversity are the stuff which defines us. Throughout this past year we have never lost sight of our primary purpose — supporting our deserving veterans as they transition from defending our nation to finding a new purpose in rebuilding American manufacturing. Our high-potential veterans warrant our assistance in developing the skills they need to enter productive advanced manufacturing careers with which they can support themselves and their families, while continuing to serve their nation.

Given this imperative, our Workshops for Warriors staff quickly adapted and overcame, implementing numerous new safety protocols required by the pandemic and modifying our entire curriculum to embrace online learning with great efficiency and success. I am proud to report we had 117 graduates in 2020 (bringing our total graduates to 793) who earned 1,834 nationally-recognized certifications. We could not have done this without our dedicated, determined team and your enthusiastic support.

I am excited by a growing national awareness for our organization. Workshops for Warriors was featured in Forbes magazine, on Fox & Friends, and just recently, on CNBC’s Streets of Dreams with Marcus Lemonis. Rebuilding American manufacturing capabilities is critical to our collective future and Workshops for Warriors is uniquely positioned to train our future advanced manufacturing workforce. Our veteran graduates are working in every state of our nation and our core welding and machining programs have expanded to include advanced curriculum offerings that will further distinguish our graduates.

National initiatives have been introduced to make massive investments in infrastructure and clean energy. These initiatives, while stimulating the creation of millions more jobs, must be supported by an advanced manufacturing training pipeline to provide the skilled workforce to fill them. The supply of eager veterans is constant, and the desperate need for advanced manufacturing workers is rising. With your continued financial support, we can train more trainers faster, lead the charge in building a more robust nationally-scalable training pipeline, and create opportunities for more veterans to generate economic growth for the nation.

In 2021, we set our sights on major goals that include construction of a new training facility which will enable us to expand our course offerings and more than triple the number of veterans we can train and certify each year. This facility, which will be operational by the end of this year, will serve as a temporary headquarters and training center while we continue our plans for a purpose-built campus on our current site.

Hard times make hard men and women. We continue to press through this unprecedented period with a strength of will and conviction that is worthy of our nation’s warriors. We will prevail in our mission, and we thank you for your continued support of our efforts to rebuild America’s manufacturing workforce — one veteran at a time.

Very Respectfully,

Hernán Luis y Prado
Founder & CEO
Our work relies on our corporate partners and generous supporters throughout the Nation. Check out a few highlights of our partnerships in 2020. See more in the Photo Gallery on pages 12-15.

Administrator Jovita Carranza of the U.S. Small Business Administration toured Workshops for Warriors in October 2020. Administrator Carranza learned about WFW’s critical role in providing training and credentials to U.S. veterans while strengthening our nation’s manufacturing base.

Ford Motor Company continued its generous support of WFW in 2020. As a beneficiary of Ford’s #ProudToHonor campaign, the company granted WFW $500,000. Ford also donated thousands of masks to keep our students safe while they train.

Harris Products Group created a special-edition welding outfit to benefit Workshops for Warriors. The kit was sold nationwide by some of the largest distributors in the country.

Jimmy DiResta met with WFW Founder & CEO Hernán Luis y Prado and joined other senior staff for a tour of WFW. He became an enthusiastic team captain for WFW’s end-of-year Military Face-Off fundraiser.
Student Stories

One of eight siblings growing up with a single mother, Angel credits his decision to enlist in the Marine Corps as a way out. The military gave him the structure he needed at the time. In 2019, however, Angel found himself discharged with nowhere to go.

“I was living near [Naval Base San Diego] 32nd Street when I went out one day to get tacos. I was thinking about how I didn’t want to go back to my hometown,” he said. “I saw a sign on a building that said ‘Powered by Veterans’ and thought, I wonder what that’s about.” A few minutes later he was in the Workshops for Warriors office, and a few weeks after that he accepted a lodging and tuition scholarship.

Angel graduated from WFW’s machining program in April 2020 and accepted a full-time position at VetPowered LLC.

Justin joined the Marine Corps right after high school. “[All of] the men [in my family] who were able to enlist, did,” he said.

During his time in the USMC, Justin excelled as a machine gunner, deploying out of Okinawa, and as a member of the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin in Australia.

When it came time to transition out, a friend told him about Workshops for Warriors and he enrolled in the welding program. He knew welding could be useful both back home on the ranch and when pursuing other employment opportunities.

Justin graduated from WFW with 13 nationally-recognized credentials in welding and is employed full-time in the manufacturing industry.

Seeing the Marine Corps as a “way out” of a troubled life in her hometown, Elizabeth enlisted when she was 18-years-old.

Elizabeth was deployed in Okinawa, Korea, the Philippines, and Australia before moving to San Diego.

After meeting WFW CEO & Founder Hernán Luis y Prado at a USMC event, Elizabeth toured the school. She enrolled in the machining program while nearing the end of her time as active duty.

Elizabeth graduated in August of 2020 and accepted a position as a CNC machinist with Chromalloy in San Diego, CA.
Keith transitioned out of the Navy in 2019 after serving an honorable four years. When he heard about Workshops for Warriors, he thought he should check it out.

“The things that caught my attention about Workshops for Warriors is that it is veteran-run and owned, that the reduced timeline fit my schedule, and that it is hands-on work.”

Keith completed WFW’s welding course and was named Summer 2020 Honor Graduate. He then entered WFW’s intermediate Welding II program. After graduating for the second time in December 2020, Keith joined the Workshops for Warriors staff as a Welding Teaching Assistant.

After serving four honorable years in the Army, Ruffo transitioned out of the military. He thought about going to college, but with his wife being deployed with the Navy, he could not pursue a multiple-year degree. Then, Ruffo discovered Workshops for Warriors’ four-month training programs. It was the perfect fit.

Before his training began, in March of 2020, WFW had shifted all classroom instruction to online learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I was nervous. I’d never done online learning,” Ruffo said. “But it was just like we were in the classroom.”

Ruffo graduated with 31 machining credentials in December 2020 and accepted a full-time machinist position with Fox Racing in San Diego.

Alicia joined the Navy in December 2015 and worked as a Hull Technician doing plumbing, pipefitting, wood-working and welding. “[Welding] was something I grew to love.”

After five years of service, Alicia transitioned out of the Navy. She heard about Workshops for Warriors from a Navy comrade and, naturally, she enrolled in WFW’s welding program.

Alicia graduated in December 2020 and is now training in WFW’s Welding II course. She will graduate in the Spring of 2021. After completing Welding II, Alicia plans to move closer to family in Anaheim, CA and secure a job doing advanced manufacturing welding.
2020 Graduating Classes

Spring
Graduating Class
2020
1st COVID Class

Summer
Graduating Class
2020
2nd COVID Class

Fall
Graduating Class
2020
3rd COVID Class
Students enrolled in WFW’s machining program in 2020 earned a total of 1,250 machining certifications.

Machining Credentials Earned

- SolidProfessor: 352
- Solidworks: 23
- Amada: 14
- Immerse2Learn: 214
- Mastercam: 109
- Workshops for Warriors Forklift Qualification: 1
- NIMS: 185
- NC3 Starrett: 326
- Flow: 15
- CNC: Mill Operations: 11
Students enrolled in WFW’s welding program in 2020 earned 584 total welding certifications.

### 2020 Welding Credentials Earned

- AWS: Safety in Welding, 44
- AWS: Understanding Welding Symbols, 39
- AWS: WPSPQR, 41
- AWS: Welding Fundamentals I, 1
- GTAW 18/10 G Overhead, 12
- GTAW 18/10 G Horizontal, 12
- GTAW 5G Vertical Pipe, 5
- GTAW 5G Horizontal Pipe, 3
- Introduction to Forklift (Welding), 22
- Other, 13
- GMAW Short Arc Vertical, 54
- GMAW Short Arc Horizontal, 57
- GMAW Short Arc Overhead, 57
- SMAWB Vertical, 54
- SMAWB Overhead, 55
- FCAWB Overhead, 50
- FCAWB Vertical, 52
1. The San Diego Padres visit WFW
2. Actor Jack Scalia tours WFW
3. Vetty Awards in Washington, D.C.
4. Friends from Qualcomm come in for a tour
5. Students participating in the Amada training
6. Founder & CEO Hernán Luis y Prado talks via Zoom to the Spring 2020 class
7. Marcus Lemonis filming at WFW for his CNBC show Streets of Dreams
8. WFW staff and students distribute food to Barrio Logan residents
9. Rick Peters tours WFW
10. One Source donates hundreds of items to WFW
11. Moody’s Medicinals delivers over 300 bottles of hand sanitizer
12. Linda Jacoway of the Galley Girls sews masks for WFW students
13. Flow Waterjet training
14. Mutual of America visits WFW
15. WFW’s virtual Toast to Our Graduates
16. Staff contributing to Councilmember Vivian Moreno’s neighborhood cleanup
17. Students select clothing donated by JoS. A. Bank
18. Welding students unbox donated saw blades from Lenox
19. Daniel Grubbs from the San Diego Police Department gives to WFW
20. The Galley Girls donate pre-packaged Thanksgiving meals to WFW students

21. Welding students with helmets donated by IWDC

22. Weiler donates protective gear to the welding class

23. The Gene Haas Foundation names WFW a 2020 grant recipient

24. Kemper System donates hundreds of Anti-Spatter Spray cans to WFW

25. The El Cajon Rotary presents a check to WFW

26. Machining program staff unboxes vises donated by Kurt Manufacturing Company
In the News

Workshops for Warriors was proud to be featured by many local and national media outlets in 2020. We look forward to increasing our visibility in 2021 and beyond.

Forbes

Solving America’s Twin Crises

The United States faces a dual crisis with over a half-million unfilled manufacturing jobs and large numbers of retired military service members who are struggling without opportunity, employment or even homes. Fortunately, more business and civic leaders are recognizing that the two problems, when viewed together, reveal a collective solution: build a scalable infrastructure that trains, certifies and directs veterans into stable, high-paying, advanced manufacturing careers. This tackles the skills gap, stems the manufacturing sector’s brain drain, steers veterans toward a purposeful path, and strengthens the economic and social fabric of America.

Over the past several decades, the American manufacturing sector traded resiliency for cost-cutting, and profitability, continuously shrinking, and damaging the collective skills base of the American workforce. Now, there are 520,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs across the country, and by 2025 this skills gap is projected to reach 4.4 million.

This affects far more than the building of cars, jet engines and other large machines. In 2016 advanced manufacturing represented 60% of the dollar value of U.S. exports, and this sector is consistently driving innovation, giving way to the scientific tools and
In the News, Cont.

**Industry Week**

A Willingness to Serve: Hiring Veterans Could be the Key to Overcoming Skills Shortage

"We need to reach a consensus as a country that recognizes what I call a VET 2.0 perspective that builds on resources as a valuable source of talent, that will help galvanize a stronger, smarter and more efficient America," said Herman L. J. Proctor.

**Military.com**

Workshops for Warriors’ Is Intense, Effective Training for Skilled Manufacturing Jobs

The United States is aging in every possible way. The infrastructure that drove the postwar boom is in need of upgrades and repair, and those who helped build and maintain it are starting to retire. But few skilled workers are around to replace them.

One Navy veteran is out to fix that. He wants America’s military veterans to be the skilled workers of the future.

**Military Families**

Workshops for Warriors trains veterans for advanced manufacturing

Workshops for Warriors started with a handful of unsilled service members in a 400-square-foot garage. Twelve years later the nonprofit has become the world’s largest training

**The San Diego Union-Tribune**

WORKSHOPS FOR WARRIORS WELLS FARGO IS HELPING FORGE A PATHWAY FOR VETERANS IN MANUFACTURING

Wells Fargo and other companies are stepping up to support the military, veterans, and their families. This nonprofit organization, which is part of the Wells Fargo Foundation, helps veterans and their families transition into the workforce.

**GB Magazine**

We can help you build and strengthen your team during these challenging times. Reach out to us to learn more.
The need has never been greater and your support has never meant more. We have promises to keep, lives to impact and America’s future to shape. Our student veterans, their families and everyone at Workshops for Warriors thanks you.

Learn how you can continue supporting our mission at wfw.org.
REBUILDING AMERICAN MANUFACTURING,
ONE VETERAN AT A TIME®

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