

# A Q&A with Shannon Munro

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Pennsylvania College of Technology



PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### What is your assessment of the state's workforce development efforts?

We have positive momentum toward solutions to the workforce challenges that exist across the world. Those solutions include diverse approaches to how and where people are trained, incorporating emerging technology and rethinking education pathways. However, there are currently not enough people available to work in the areas where we need them the most, which necessitates targeting resources to solve critical challenges.

### What is your strategy on the issue?

Improving workforce development requires understanding it. We recognize that there are

many opportunities now for people to enter the workforce and train as they go. A degree might be required for entry, but continuous upskilling on multiple fronts is now the norm. Penn College provides people with multiple entry points for the education and training they need to start or flourish in their careers.

### What should politicians key on to improve workforce development?

The priority at all levels of government should be focused on supporting industries that are most critical to the economies they impact. We must ensure that any investments to support workforce initiatives are aligned with current and targeted future workforce needs. We must understand why people are on the side-

lines, because engaging them is more important than ever. Whether the challenge is child care, family care, transportation, substance abuse or other issues, we must develop flexible solutions that meet those challenges.

### What advice do you have for people entering the workforce?

Look back and forward at the same time to understand how to best position yourself. What jobs continued to be in demand during the pandemic? Which jobs will exist in the future? There is a lot to be said for careers in engineering, technology and health care, as well as apprenticeships. There are well-paying, in-demand jobs that allow people to engage in solving the problems in our communities and the world.



## Pennsylvania College of Technology

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**#1**  
MOST INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS

**#1**  
BEST UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

**#2**  
BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS

**#4**  
TOP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**#6**  
REGIONAL COLLEGES NORTH

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

4,983

EMPLOYEES TRAINED



280

APPRENTICES TRAINED



### ACADEMIC SUCCESS

96%

GRADUATE PLACEMENT RATE



3,000+

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



TAKING THE LEAD

**#1** 10/15 YEAR ROI

PA PUBLIC 4-YEAR SCHOOLS

Source: 2022 Georgetown CEW net present value rankings

### LARGEST PROGRAM AREAS

WELDING & METAL FABRICATION  
NURSING  
ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
ELECTRICAL  
AUTOMOTIVE

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING  
ELECTRONICS & COMPUTER ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
DENTAL HYGIENE  
DIESEL TRUCK, HEAVY EQUIPMENT & POWER GENERATION  
AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING & MACHINING