

6 Linking Business, Industry, and Apprentice Training with Secondary and Postsecondary Welding Programs

by Robert Kimbrell, The Resource Center

The Resource Center for Technology is a nonprofit educational training agency located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Dr. Bob Kimbrell, a retired career technical educator, founded the Resource Center in 1991. The main objective in establishing the Center was to provide instructional resources and update training for Alabama career technical teachers.

Dr. Kimbrell always had a close working relationship with both secondary and postsecondary teachers in Alabama for many years in his capacity as a specialist with the Alabama State Department of Education staff and as a teacher educator at Athens State University, where he instructed in the career technical department.

In seeking to provide update training for career technical teachers, Dr. Kimbrell met with Lou Johnson, the U.S. Department of Labor representative for Alabama, to determine welding apprenticeship contacts and the possibility of a joint effort. Welding apprenticeship programs in Alabama were contacted to request their participation in working with secondary and postsecondary welding teachers. The next step in establishing the workshops was to seek support from welding vendors and the industries that hire welding students. Workshops were then established to keep teachers up to date on the latest techniques and to develop a relationship among all agencies that work with welding.

This year marks the eleventh consecutive year in which the technical workshops have been conducted. The seminar will discuss how the Resource Center has been the catalyst to bring a great working relationship among all those involved in the welding industry in Alabama.