Career Opportunities & Earning Power
In Illinois, the median wage for welders and solderers is $12.86 per hour ($2,230 per month).

Nationally, the median wage for welders and solderers is $2,370 per month. Half of all welders and solderers earn between $1,930 and $2,940 per month.

In Illinois, average growth is expected in the employment of welders and solderers through 2010. About 890 job openings are expected each year.

Nationally, the number of jobs for welders and solderers is expected to grow more slowly than average through the year 2008.

Skilled welders may specialize in a particular type of gas or arc welding. Others may become combination welders. Some may advance to become supervisors, welding inspectors or welding instructors. Those who complete additional training may qualify to become welding technicians. A few experienced welders open their own welding and repair shops. Welding skills are extremely useful in manufacturing and maintenance.

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to seek entry-level employment in the areas of metal products, transportation equipment, construction, maintenance, machinery and the mining industry or in machine/welding shops. Students may elect to further their education at Heartland Community College by continuing in the Maintenance Technology or Manufacturing Technology AAS degree programs.