

Several Crawford Tech students attend 'Women in the Trades' event in Pittsburgh

By Mike Crowley

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

More than 25 Crawford Tech students were among the participants in a "Women in the Trades" event at Rosedale Technical College in Pittsburgh last week.

The ninth annual gathering of women from across western Pennsylvania, the event aims to inspire and empower participants to pursue careers in the skilled trades, industries in which women have been historically underrepresented.

Kara Chan, Rosedale's director of education and marketing, said about 150 women of all ages participated in the Wednesday event.

"The growth in interest shows us that more individuals, including women, are seeing viable and rewarding futures in the trades," Chan said. "With female enrollment at Rosedale Tech already triple the national average, events like these play a critical role in shifting perceptions, sparking curiosity, and



Contributed photo

A group of 26 female students and three instructors from Crawford Tech participated in a 'Women in the Trades' event Wednesday at Rosedale Technical College in Pittsburgh.

empowering individuals to explore these career paths with confidence."

The program included student exploratory opportunities, a panel discussion with alumni and

industry employers, and a question-and-answer session. Crawford Tech students heard from recruiters and technicians at area auto dealers,

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welders who graduated from the Rosedale program and now work at Pittsburgh companies, a production supervisor at Carnegie Robotics, and owners and executives at other Pittsburgh-based trade companies — all of them women offering first-hand insight into educational paths and career possibilities.

Crawford Tech instructor Dan Mealy, one of three instructors who took part in the event, was impressed by the experience.

“Our students really enjoyed the day,” Mealy said. “It was a great opportunity for our students to be in the

same room with top women industry leaders and be able to participate in the roundtable question-and answer-session, which instills in them the confidence that they can be successful also.”

Founded in 1949, Rosedale offers two-year degrees in nine fields and awarded 273 degrees in 2022, 34 of them to women, according to datausa.io. The annual Women in the Trades events are “a testament to the institution’s ongoing efforts to increase diversity, promote equity, and prepare a skilled workforce for the future,” according to an announcement from the school.

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