

# Nicole LeClair

Education and training for the welders of tomorrow



Nicole LeClair is a Welding Engineering Technologist who has worked in outside sales for many years, but decided to make a career change so that she could focus her emphasis more on education and training for the welders of tomorrow. Read on and see how she's found her passion.

**CWA: How long have you been welding/fabricating?**

Nicole LeClair: It's hard to believe, but it's going on 19 years that I've been welding. The first 3 of those years were spent in school becoming a Welder Fitter and then a Welding Engineering Technologist. Cambrian College and Conestoga College, respectively.

**CWA: How did you get into the industry?**

Nicole LeClair: The road I took to get into the industry was definitely not paved, nor straight. After high school, I attended University for awhile, as I'd been under the impression that that's what was expected of me to do, but during those months I was struggling with visualizing what my job would be after attaining a BA and ultimately I quit University in order to pursue a career that was more hands on. I've always enjoyed learning how things work, fixing/making things and certainly wasn't adverse to rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty. Thoughts turned to the trades and welding was always the trade that piqued my interest the most, so I took a night course in welding in my hometown of Ottawa, ON and that course set me off on my journey. From there, I moved to Sudbury, ON to go to Cambrian College where I received my Welder Fitter diploma in 1999 and passed my all position SMAW ticket. Graduating with the second highest grade, I was approached to consider taking the Welding Engineering Technologist course at Conestoga College, which I did. I later worked for a gas distributor for almost 15 years where I got to manage various territories and help customers with their daily welding needs and also educate clients on new ways to increase productivity by automating processes and being a key teammate to their welding successes.