



### **Basic Welding Training; The AFL-CIO Keystone Development Partnership Training Program.**

While primarily known for precision fabrication technology and advanced robotic welding technology, MAGLEV, Inc.'s reputation for quality welding has led the AFL-CIO to approach MAGLEV, Inc. to coordinate and conduct basic welding training for companies in southwest Pennsylvania.

The program is funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the state AFL-CIO and is intended to provide free training for workers at companies that are interested in training their employees in basic welding or upgrading the skills of their current welders. The training is primarily centered on welding (Basic, MIG, TIG, Pipe or Robotic Welding) leading to various AWS Certifications, but the courses can also include 3-D CAD/CAM for machine shops, etc. The training program has the flexibility so that the training can be customized to individual company needs.

The normal matching cost to the employer has been waived by the state, so the training is at no cost, but the company is responsible for their lost time wages and travel expenses. The courses are comprised of a minimum of 8 individuals, but MAGLEV, Inc. can arrange for several companies to provide a few trainees from each company to fill out the roster.

MAGLEV, Inc. has compiled a list of the companies that have expressed interest in basic training assistance from the Commonwealth. The company has also received an excellent response from the Staff Representatives from the United Steelworkers District 10 in Pennsylvania. They have been able to refer several companies that have expressed a need for the training.

The project is moving forward and the first class is scheduled to begin in May 2008.