

Adin Desjardins,
Manufacturing Dual Credit at
Canadore College (Widdifield High
School/Manufacturing Co-Op)

Adin Desjardins, a grade 12 student, feels like his career options just got expanded after experiencing Dual Credit classes.

While deciding what classes to enroll in his last year of high school, Adin was excited to learn that the Dual Credit program had Welding classes: "Welding is what I really, really wanted to get into."

The pull to the field started while Adin was still a child, watching his father working as a pipefitter. In his own words, "I started to learn to use a grinder when I was 12 years old and worked my way up. I've always been interested in doing hands on type work, rather than sit in a desk, working in a book, I would rather be hands on."

Despite knowing what profession he would like to work in, Adin did not have a clear pathway in mind. In fact, until starting his Dual Credit classes, he believed he was bound to join a specific union in a nearby city, and then be sent to a College in the south, that had an agreement with the Union.

The Dual Credit experience allowed him to learn he could get his education in his hometown, and that there were many options in his chosen field to explore. Suddenly, his future has many more exciting opportunities ahead.

Adin also mentioned how Dual Credit changed his perspective of college: "I thought it would be mostly just learning out of a book, learning how to read measurements, and not much hands on type of learning," but now, he says, "I like that they actually make you do hands on stuff, and they push you further and further: [the teacher would tell us]: 'You can do this, and this, but can you try to do this one?' And once you get to that point, you just want to keep going, and going..."

After years of experimenting informally with welding, Adin is excited that his Dual Credit classes allow him to use real shops and learn professional techniques: "I would rather know how to do it properly and learn all the steps, in class right now we are learning how to read blueprints... In my co-op I would not be able to do that, but in my dual credit I'm learning how to do all the proper stuff."



When reminded that his Dual Credit teachers are very proud of his work in class, and asked how that made him feel, Adin states that it makes it feel proud of himself: “My father has worked in welding for more than 25 years, and he would like to see his son succeed, and I want him to see that I can do it. He is proud of me.”

When asked what he would tell a high school student thinking about entering the Dual Credit program, Adin didn’t hesitate: “I would say go for it. If you think you want to work in the trades, or other field, take a course. Dual credit is a like a “test run,” where you can try something and see if it is what you want.”

The Dual Credit program allows students to participate in apprenticeship training and post-secondary courses, allowing them to earn credits that count towards both their high school diploma and their post-secondary diploma, degree or apprenticeship certification.

For more information regarding Dual Credits visit www.canadorecollege.ca/programs, or contact a Dual Credit representative at a local District School Board.

