



What is WoodLINKS?

WoodLINKS is an industry-developed high school curriculum that provides woodworking certification for graduates. The program outlines the entry-level skills and knowledge students need to pursue a career in wood manufacturing, and provides teachers with the resources and assessment tools they need to ensure their students start out on the right path.

WoodLINKS was developed through close collaboration among representatives from the Canadian advanced wood manufacturing industry, high school teachers and post-secondary educators. It is offered in schools across Canada and the United States, and is internationally recognized for its ability to partner schools with industry, allowing students to see how their work in the classroom has practical, real-world applications.

Where did it come from?

The program was developed in a cooperative process with representatives from the BC (British Columbia during the September 1997 and 1998 school years, and subsequently received approval from the BC Ministry of Education for use in all BC high schools) wood products manufacturing industry and secondary and post-secondary educators (the WoodLINKS curriculum was built using a DACUM process with industry). The WoodLINKS program stopped running in Canada due to the lack of funding for the program. The U.S.A. saw potential in the WoodLINKS program, and brought the WoodLINKS program to America.

The wood links program was restarted in Canada once there was enough money and companies that could fund the program. The program is now offered annually in over 70 schools across Canada that is presently certifying students. This includes some schools in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Yukon.

Who is the primary target of WoodLinks Programs & why?

The primary target has been to have high schools deliver the program in grades 11 and 12. This gives the program maximum reach to young people at a time when they are beginning to make career and post-secondary education choices. The program outlines the entry-level skills and knowledge students need to pursue a career in wood manufacturing, and provides teachers with the resources and assessment tools they need to ensure their students start out on the right path.

Short history on WoodLINKS

By: Amanda.S

WoodLINKS first came about in 1997; it was first developed in British Columbia (BC). The WoodLINKS program was sadly shut down due to the lack of funding. The program was then later brought to America where it had made a big boom, many schools in America started to offer the program and still do. After a while the WoodLINKS program was brought back to Canada, and is now running in about 70 schools. Schools that are located in such as Ontario, New Brunswick, Yukon, Saskatchewan, and of course (the primary wood descriptor industry in Canada) where the program first started British Columbia.

What is WoodLINKS? WoodLINKS is a great program that is sponsored by industries that help and provide high schools with funding for woodworking certification. This course is offered as a high school credit, however when it comes to WoodLINKS it is more than just a class and even more than just a credit. WoodLINKS is a program that gives students a better understanding of wood and wood crafting. It is a program set on helping students get a chance to explore the wood working world. This program is offered in grade 11 and 12.

WoodLINKS is a very hands-on course that provides the opportunity for students to learn and develop a better understanding of wood crafting, a variety of machines and tools, an understanding of safety in the shop/work area that involves;

- Safety around and on the machines.
- How to safely operate machine & Personal safety.
- The dangers of wood, such as wood dust particles.
- Respect for the machines and tools & Respect for each other.

How I Feel About the WoodLINKS Program

One of my personal challenges that I faced when I joined the wood working program was that I was the only girl in my class. For some reason I let myself believe that I couldn't do as well as the guys in my class. I felt that I couldn't do what they did. I was shown that I was more than wrong. I learned vast amounts of information that I would have never known if I didn't stick with this class and that gives me a sense of pride in myself and in my work.

The reason I took WoodLINKS is very different for the reason I stuck with WoodLINKS. I had thought if I took this class I would have something different to add to my college education that would give me a variety of classes/credits. I honestly didn't expect to learn a whole new skill, taking this class has helped me to develop more confidence in myself, in my skills and abilities. I have learned new math skills, I was taught how to properly use measurements, and I have improved my social skills by learning how to ask for help when it is needed and assisting those who need help. The WoodLINKS program for me was a very different way that I had gained new knowledge and new skills, and that's something I am able to take with me for the rest of my life.

Some websites where you can find more information on WoodLINKS and WoodLINKS program are listed below (with the websites picture logo);

- <http://www.woodlinks.com/m07about.html>
- <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?DID=2628> (The Conference Board of Canada)
 - <http://www.wmc-cfb.ca/programs/woodlinks> (Wood Manufacturing Council)



- <http://www.woodlinks.com/m07about.html> (WoodLINKS a General Wood Manufacturing Industry High School Curriculum {Approved by the BC Ministry of Education})

