

## New Technology Makes Better Welding Training a Reality

Alaska welders and welding instructors recently experienced the latest innovation in welding training – the SimWelder, a virtual reality welding training technology. The technology was demonstrated February 5 – 10 in Anchorage at the King Career Center and Plumbers & Steamfitters Hall, and in Fairbanks at the Hutchison Center and Plumbers & Steamfitters Hall.

The SimWelder, developed by VRSim, is designed to train better welders faster by giving students more weld passes and providing instructors with more objective data. Using SimWelder, students enter an interactive, virtual environment that combines computer-generated data with physical props. As SimWelder only simulates welding, the appliance also saves time and money, and increases training effectiveness.

The hands-on demonstration was offered to Alaska welders through a partnership between VRSim, UA Workforce Programs, Anchorage School District, Alaska Works, and Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 367 and 375.

This is just one example of how UA partners with business and industry to meet Alaska's training and workforce development needs. To learn more or to explore opportunities for your organization, contact Bruce Rowe, UA Corporate Programs, at 907.786.1168 or [bruce.rowe@alaska.edu](mailto:bruce.rowe@alaska.edu).



*Hands-on practice with welding simulator*



*Fred Villa, Associate Vice President, UA Workforce Programs*