JUSTIN: In the Appalachian Basin there’s been a renewed focus on natural gas. And it’s spurred our local economy and it’s provided so many great opportunities. But a lot of these jobs require skills, training and certifications.

SOUND UP woodsaw buzzzzz

JUSTIN: I’ve been a woodshop teacher at Waynesburg High School for 11 years and I’ve always worked side jobs, including driving commercial vehicles.

JUSTIN: For lots of my side jobs, it required certifications and safety trainings. As I would sit through those, I realized that is exactly what we needed to implement into our class.

MUSIC CUE: Take Me Back Again

JUSTIN: The Marcelus is on average 150 ft. thick. So, there's a lot of gas in there...[Teaching students]

JUSTIN: Our natural resources class is offered to 11th and 12th graders...to give them an orientation into the oil and gas fields.

TREY: We can get up to like 5 certifications in this class and with those certifications, we could potentially get a job right out of high school.

JUSTIN: Hook it to your back "D" ring and then you can hook up to your tile point.[Teaching students]

JUSTIN: The certifications are very expensive. but thanks to the Chevron funding, we’re able to teach everything from basic safe land, core compliance, H2S awareness, basic pipeline, safe construction and we also do a CDL permitting process. A lot of companies teach the same orientation classes that we’re teaching right here in the high school.
JUSTIN: He’s going to continue to pump the truck until you hear the breaks set. [Teaching students]

DYLAN: I took this class because the certifications help me land the job faster after I’m done with college.

JUSTIN: My the college bound students are focused mainly on petroleum engineering or environmental sciences…the other half just wants to go out and get their hands dirty and start working.

TREY: I know a guy who took this class. And he’s doing pretty well for himself now, he’s bought two trucks.

JUSTIN: In addition to the certifications, a big focus of mine is making the students a well rounded person, so they’re gonna have a great work ethic and they’re gonna succeed no matter what industry they’re in.