



American Welding Society[®]
FOUNDATION

AWS Foundation
2020-2021
Annual Report

aws.org/foundation

Message from the Chairman



When applications for our National, District, and Section Scholarships closed on March 1, 2020, we began to read essays from students who had ambitious goals, a passion for welding, and an eagerness to continue their education and training so they could graduate and start their careers in the field.

Just a few short weeks later, the world changed. The COVID-19 pandemic sent students home to learn welding on a computer... a less-than-ideal way to learn a skill that must be mastered with hours of hands-on training.

However, welding schools and students are resilient, and in due time, following CDC guidelines, many schools found a way to get back to training, especially since most states deemed welders as “essential.” Welding plays a critical role in our economy, including in the infrastructure, transportation, and medical equipment necessary to combat the virus.

As students got back to work, so did our scholarships - \$1.6 million in all – to support welding students at a time when it was needed most. In 2020, our scholarships provided a lifeline when many families were struggling and unsure how to pay for the next semester or class.

We continued to support welding schools through our grant programs. More than \$325,000 in Welding Workforce Grants were awarded to help purchase new equipment and expand training facilities. Additionally, we shipped welding equipment starter packages to seven high schools as part of our new Light a Spark Grant.

As we worked hard to support the welding industry through education, we also inspired young people and career changers to consider welding as a profession.

In the past year, we posted more than 165 articles and videos to WeldingDigest.com, CareersinWelding.com, YouTube, and social media, with some reaching in the tens of thousands of views. Our videos on YouTube and social media have included career profiles, DIY videos, and the Arc2Art project.

These were just a few ways we impacted the industry and worked to address the shortage of welding personnel in many fields this past year. With your help, we can do even more.

If you have the means, please consider establishing a new scholarship or grant, or donate to an existing fund or initiative. Contributions towards new or existing scholarships are matched by the AWS Foundation at 100% and no portion of any donation goes towards overhead or operating expenses.

To establish a scholarship or grant endowment, or make a general donation, please contact Monica Pfarr, Executive Director of the AWS Foundation, at 800-443-9353 Ext. 461 or mpfarr@aws.org.

Because of you, the AWS Foundation brought hope to many during a year where hope was hard to come by. You have contributed to ensuring the future strength of our industry, and we look forward to even more success in the years to come.

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Chairman, AWS Foundation

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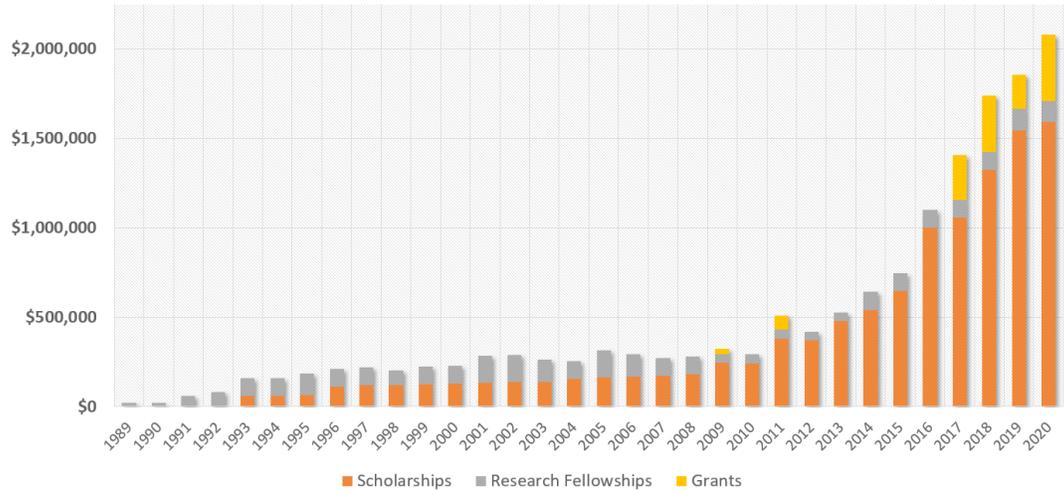
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Scholarships

AWS Foundation Scholarship, Grant, and Fellowship Awards totaled more than \$2 million in 2020. In the past five years, the AWS Foundation has awarded more than in the previous 27 years combined.



2020-21 Scholarships

- **\$1.6 million awarded**
- 1,136 total scholarships awards
- Recipients attend more than 400 different academic and training institutions
- 23% Female
 - According to Emsi, 5% of the current welding workforce are women. AWS Foundation scholarships continue to help provide opportunities for women in welding.
- Recipients are enrolled in the following programs:
 - 23% Bachelor's degree
 - 21% Associate Degree
 - 54% Certificate
 - 2% Other

Spreading the Word



On-Demand Webinar – AWS Foundation Scholarship Program Administrators Whitney Minor and Nazhdia Prado talked about scholarships available through the American Welding Society Foundation and what you need to complete the online application. This webinar, along with others from AWS can be found at www.aws.org/webinars.



Arc Junkies Podcast – AWS Foundation Associate Director John Douglass and scholarship recipient Shane Goslin spoke to Arc Junkies host Jason Becker about the impact of AWS Scholarships and gave some best practices for applying. Listen to this podcast, and all other AWS Weld Wednesday Podcasts at www.aws.org/podcasts.



JEANINE BEAVER

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY | WELDING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
HOMETOWN: EAST PEORIA, IL
2020-21 Recipient – Airgas – Jerry Baker Scholarship
"During the semester I work two jobs on campus and volunteer in the community as often as I can. With the help of this scholarship, I will be able to spend more time and energy on my academics and personal growth. Thank you again for your support!"



BENJAMIN WARNICK

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY | MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY: WELDING EMPHASIS
HOMETOWN: SPANISH FORK, UT
2020-21 Recipient – Donald & Shirley Hastings Scholarship
"After completing my Bachelor's degree, I want to go into the ship-building industry as a welding or metallurgical engineer. . . I am deeply grateful and promise to devote myself to my education, so that someday I can give back to future welding students like myself."



HENRY KINGWILL

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY | WELDING AND FABRICATION ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
HOMETOWN: GLENVIEW, IL
2020-21 Recipient – Miller 90th Anniversary Scholarship
"I cannot thank you enough for the scholarship. I was not going to be able to go back to school in the fall. Like many others, I have been furloughed for the last two months. Being awarded the scholarship from the AWS was a huge bright spot in a very difficult time."



KENDRA MURPHY

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY | MATERIALS JOINING ENGINEERING
HOMETOWN: SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA
2020-21 Recipient – Ron Whitman Scholarship
"I want to sincerely thank you for your generosity in giving me this scholarship. I am so thankful for the kind benefactors that help students like myself be able to afford a great education in an amazing field of study."



JORDAN SCHMEIDER

ROSEDALE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE | WELDING
HOMETOWN: PITTSBURGH, PA
2020-21 Recipient – David L. & Dolly McQuaid Scholarship
"Choosing to change my career field at age 30 and go back to school was a difficult decision to make, especially because financial assistance is less available to those who have been working for the past fourteen years as I have. The support your financial generosity has provided me allows more time to practice the skills I have learned throughout this welding program and focus solely on my studies."



HARLEIGH WATSON

HOBART INSTITUTE OF WELDING TECHNOLOGY | WELDING
HOMETOWN: MARYSVILLE, OH
2020-21 Recipient – Columbus Section Scholarship
"I will be attending Hobart in November of this year to pursue my dreams and goals of becoming a pipeline welder. Thank you again for providing this scholarship."

Grants

\$1,000,000 in Grants Awarded Since 2017

The following schools were awarded grants of up to \$25,000 in 2020:

- Aiken Technical College - Aiken, SC
- Airport Community Schools - Carlton, MI
- Chippewa Falls High School - Chippewa Falls, WI
- Crowder College Advanced Training & Technology Center - Joplin, MO
- Ida High School - Ida, MI (Detroit Section Grant)
- Kankakee Area Career Center - Bourbonnais, IL
- Kansas City Kansas Community College - Kansas City, KS

- Mifflin County Academy of Science & Technology - Lewistown, PA
- Mount Pleasant High School - Columbia, TN
- Paso Robles High School - Paso Robles, CA
- Somerset Community College - Somerset, KY
- Texarkana College - Texarkana, TX
- Waubensee Community College - Sugar Grove, IL
- York County School of Technology - York, PA



Student from Aiken Technical College performs the root pass with the GTAW process in the vertical position.

Student from Kankakee Area Career Center applies plasma arc cutting on angle stock.

Light a Spark Grant



The AWS Foundation's newest grant program offers a welding equipment package valued at \$10,000 to high schools that do not currently offer welding. Recipients were:

- Blairsville-Saltsburg School District - Blairsville, PA
- Easton Valley High School - Preston, IA
- James Hillhouse High School - New Haven, CT
- Republic-Michigamme School - Republic, MI
- Swanville High School - Swanville, MN
- Union Mine High School - El Dorado, CA
- Waltrip High School - Houston, TX

Students from Union Mine High School in El Dorado, CA pose with their new welding equipment package.

"Our new welding equipment will allow us to explore more potential career opportunities and experience different things during our tech-ed class. I cannot wait to take full advantage of the prospect of learning how to weld!"

- Jacob, Blairsville-Saltsburg High School Senior

Educators and Fellowships

Educator Scholarships

\$21,500 in scholarships were provided to welding educators and instructors to pursue advanced degrees or professional development to advance their career and to better serve their students in preparation for careers in the industry.



William Isham – Instructor at Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL Jackson Safety National Educator Scholarship Recipient

“Once I became a welding instructor I went deep into the science and theory of welding and metallurgy. My director overheard a lecture I was giving on D1.1 qualification tests. He asked if I was interested in getting my CWI/CWE and suggested I check into the AWS Educator’s Scholarships to help cover the expenses. The scholarship offered what my family now considers a life-changing opportunity. My knowledge and fascination with welding have increased exponentially. My students are better for it. The school’s welding program is better for it. My welding skills altogether are better for it.”

University Graduate-Level Research

Four students each received a \$30,000 fellowship to support research projects in welding, additive manufacturing, and other allied technologies:

AWS FELLOWSHIP

Andrew Iams

The Pennsylvania State University

Exploring New Pathways for Controlling Austenite Quantity and Morphology in Additively Manufactured Duplex Stainless Steel Alloys

Under the guidance of Dr. Todd Palmer, The Pennsylvania State University

GLENN J. GIBSON FELLOWSHIP

Samuel Luther

The Ohio State University

Quantification of the Susceptibility to Ductility-Dip Cracking in Austenitic Alloys

Under the guidance of Dr. Boian Alexandrov, The Ohio State University

AWS FELLOWSHIP

Alejandro Hintze Cesaro

University of Alberta

Austenite formation in Low Carbon Microalloyed Steels

Under the guidance of Dr. Patricio Mendez, University of Alberta

MILLER ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING CO. FELLOWSHIP

Derek Shaffer

The Pennsylvania State University

Effect of Nitrogen Content on Mechanical Properties of Precipitation Hardening Stainless Steel

Under the guidance of Dr. Todd Palmer, The Pennsylvania State University

Careers In Welding

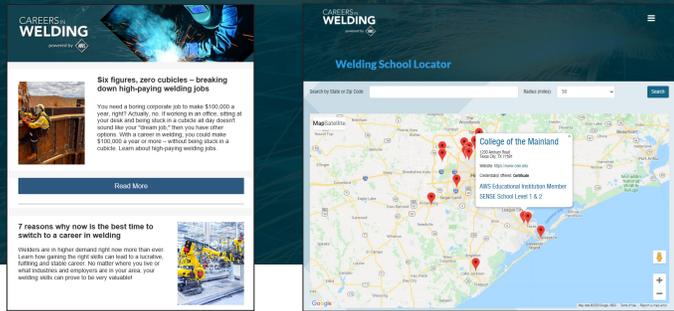
CareersinWelding.com Site Stats – 141k+ Pageviews – 17.3% increase over previous year

Monthly Newsletter – Featuring popular articles and videos about welding careers

School Locator – New, map-based tool provides information about credentials offered, AWS Membership, SENSE Registration, and Accredited Test Facility status

Real-time Instagram Feed on Homepage – Featuring posts with hashtags. #weldernation and #weldingisAWSome

Educators Page – Digital resources for educators to use in the classroom or for online teaching



Witness the WORLD of Welding!



Share your favorite welding photos on Instagram using #WeldingisAWSome and you could be featured!



A guidance counselor includes a Careers in Welding poster in her virtual office. As many students did remote learning in 2020, [Google Classroom](#) was the #3 acquisition source for visits to [CareersinWelding.com](#).

Careers in Welding Trailer

The 2020 tour was cancelled due to COVID-19. However, we look forward to being back on the road at events across the country in 2021. Special thanks to Lincoln Electric who is providing the newest model of the VRTEX 360 welding simulators, which now include the GTAW process, for the 2021 tour.



Social Media Outreach



Barbie the Welder and Stephanie Hoffman united to create Metal Maiden, a unique metal sculpture that will be placed on the Careers in Welding Mobile Exhibit. You can watch their journey at aws.org/arc2art.



2020 AWS Foundation Contributors



American Welding Society®
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU to our Donors for another incredible year. It's their support that helps to prepare the future generation of welding professionals and ensures our industry remains strong.

The AWS Foundation received \$309,214 in donations in 2020, and the following companies, members, individuals, and AWS Sections donated over \$1,000 to support scholarships, grants, and other workforce development initiatives.

Please consider joining us as we work to inspire a new generation of welding professionals. Donate today at www.aws.org/donate.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or grant endowment, contact Monica Pfarr, Executive Director of the AWS Foundation, at 800-443-9353 Ext. 461 or mpfarr@aws.org. All donations to scholarships and grants are matched at 100%.

\$100,000+

The Lincoln Electric Company

\$25,000+

Toni Clay

\$10,000+

Lexicon Management Group, Inc.

The Lincoln Electric Foundation

William and Cherry Rice

Ray and Sandy Shook

AWS Central Arkansas Section

\$5,000+

BAE Systems

LeTourneau University

Ron and Joyce Pierce

AWS Acadiana Section

AWS Columbus Section

AWS Iowa Section

AWS San Bernardino

Valley Section

AWS York-Lancaster Section

\$1,000+

Aim High Jerry Clay

Scholarship LLC

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Jeffrey P. Deckrow

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Robert and Marcy Roth

PG&E Corporation Foundation

Richard & Carol Seif

Sky Cylinder Testing, Inc.

Walter J. Sperko

Elizabeth Stueber

AWS Northern New York Section

AWS Tri-River Section

Special thanks to the staff of the American Welding Society, who contributed more than \$14,000 during the annual staff campaign.