

BUILDING WITH PURPOSE

2023 – 2024 IMPACT REPORT



American Welding Society®
FOUNDATION

PREPARING TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES

In 2012, a dedicated team of AWS members initiated a groundbreaking project to introduce the art of welding to one of the youngest, most industrious segments of our community—the Boy Scouts. This group of welding industry experts pooled their extensive expertise to develop the Boy Scout Welding Merit Badge.

Since its inception, the Welding Merit Badge has introduced tens of thousands of young individuals—both male and female—to welding, a significant accomplishment in our effort to promote welding as a viable and rewarding career path.

Why do I bring this up now?

Because in the last few years, several AWS Foundation Scholarship applicants have noted the instrumental role of the Welding Merit Badge in their decision to pursue welding education and training. In fact, one volunteer observed that a notable portion of the applications reviewed last year mentioned the Welding Merit Badge.



Inspiring the next generation represents one side of our mission, with the other being our support for welding education.

For the latter, the impact of our scholarships and grants is immediate and palpable, evidenced by heartfelt gratitude from students and their subsequent successful employment in the welding industry.

Meanwhile, the long-term effects of our outreach efforts, such as the Welding Merit Badge and virtual welding experiences of the Careers in Welding Tour, are now becoming apparent. These initiatives have been instrumental in sparking interest among young people in welding careers.

This Impact Report highlights the story of one such individual, Joshua Farley. Joshua's welding journey began with the Welding Merit Badge, was nurtured through high school with support from the AWS Foundation's Light a Spark Grant, and continues to flourish at LeTourneau University, supported by AWS Scholarships.

This report showcases the AWS Foundation's broader support for the industry, which spans research funding, apprenticeships, labor statistics, digital content development, and more. Our multifaceted programs aim to foster career exploration and highlight the numerous opportunities awaiting those ready to advance their professional journey.

Thanks to the support of our donors and the members of the American Welding Society, our efforts are strengthening the future of the welding industry. Yet, we know there is more work to be done. The United States stands at a pivotal moment, with a resurgence in manufacturing, infrastructure development, and increased defense production. These sectors are exerting pressure on an already tight skilled labor market, underscoring the urgent need for more action.

Your assistance is crucial in advancing our vital mission. Should you be in a position to do so, please consider establishing a scholarship or grant endowment. The Foundation pledges to match 100% of all contributions made to both new and existing scholarships and grants. Alternatively, you might opt to support our cause through a monthly donation at aws.org/donate. By contributing \$5 or more each month, you join the ranks of our Welding Workforce Champions, playing a key role in promoting welding careers and ensuring the continuation of our work.

We are grateful for your support and wish you a prosperous 2024.



William A. Rice, Jr.
Chairman, AWS Foundation

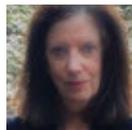
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LEADING OUR INDUSTRY FORWARD

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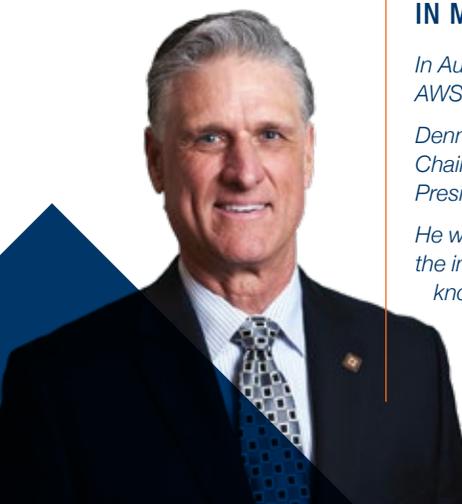
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IN MEMORIAM – DENNIS K. ECK

In August 2023, the American Welding Society and AWS Foundation mourned the sudden passing of AWS President Dennis K. Eck.

Dennis was a distinguished AWS member for more than 30 years. He was the AWS Houston Section Chairman 1989–2021, AWS Director at Large 2016–2018, AWS Vice President 2019–2022, and AWS President in 2023.

He was an enthusiastic advocate for mentoring and leading our youth toward a bright future within the industry. His focus as AWS President was on generational differences and preserving institutional knowledge by connecting the generations in new and unique ways.

Dennis was a dedicated supporter of the AWS Foundation, making significant donations over the course of his career. He and his wife Robin established the Dennis K. & Robin Eck Houston Section Scholarship through the AWS Foundation, which provides a \$5,500 scholarship each year.

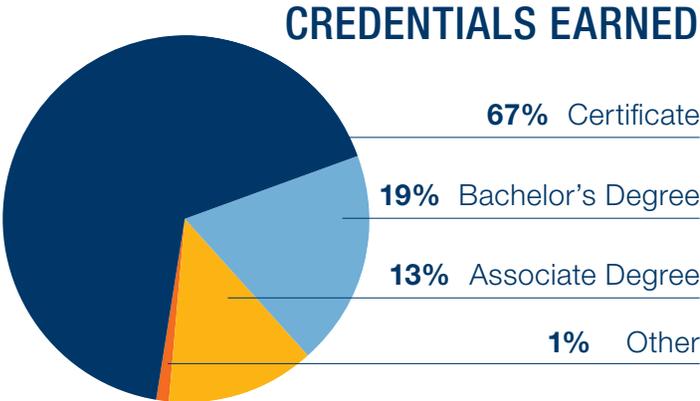
BREAKING RECORDS AND BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Since 1993, the AWS Foundation has awarded over 12,000 scholarships, totaling more than \$15 million. Receiving an AWS Foundation scholarship enables welding students to focus on their education and training while turning their passion for welding into a rewarding career.

2023–24 AWS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2.5 MILLION AWARDED

RECIPIENTS ATTEND 430 DIFFERENT ACADEMIC AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS



25% FEMALE
OUTPACING THE
WELDING INDUSTRY
PARTICIPATION
RATE OF 7.9%



1,694 TOTAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED



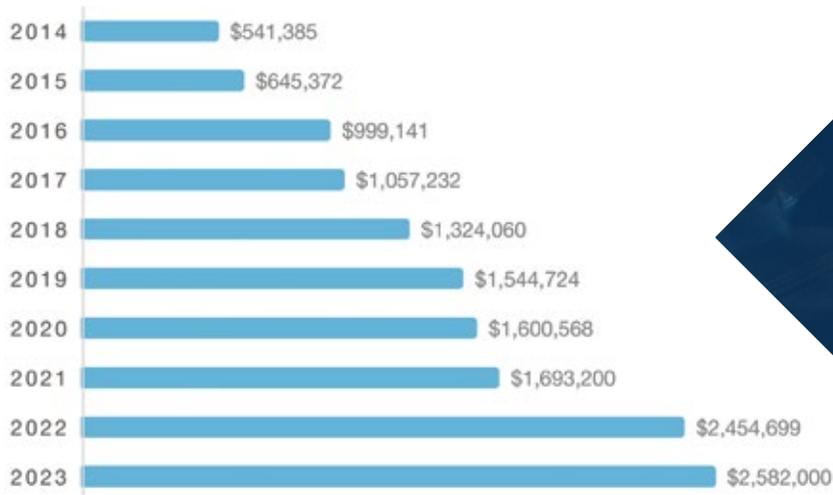
During **FABTECH 2023 IN CHICAGO**, the AWS Foundation held a ceremony to recognize scholarship, grant, and fellowship recipients, along with major donors. Twenty-eight scholarship recipients attended and were recognized on stage during the event.



2023–24 SCHOLARSHIPS — SCHOOLS WITH THE MOST SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

School	Number of Scholarships	Total Dollar Amount
Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI)	122	\$319,000
Hobart Institute of Welding Technology (Troy, OH)	81	\$101,500
Missouri Welding Institute (Nevada, MO)	42	\$42,500
Pennsylvania College of Technology (Williamsport, PA)	41	\$129,750
American Welding Academy (Union, MO)	33	\$40,000
Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)	29	\$105,250
LeTourneau University (Longview, TX)	26	\$81,250
Arkansas Elite Welding Academy (Quitman, AR)	26	\$46,750
Western Welding Academy (Gillette, WY)	23	\$24,000
Tulsa Welding School (Tulsa, OK)	22	\$26,000

HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIPS — 2014–2023



The AWS Foundation is grateful for the **300+ VOLUNTEERS** whose thousands of hours of work spent reviewing scholarship applications this year made our work possible. Thank you for your tremendous efforts!



DRIVEN. DETERMINED. DESERVING.

We're pleased to highlight just a few examples of dedicated, passionate individuals from the diverse class of 2023–24 AWS Foundation Scholarship recipients. Congratulations!



Scan this QR code to see the full list of scholarship recipients.



RAMA DIOP

Ohio State University, Welding Engineering

Hometown: Columbus, OH

Recipient » David Landon Memorial Scholarship

Amount: \$8,000

“This scholarship is important to me as it will help alleviate the financial burden of college and allow me to focus on my primary goal of college, which is to learn and grow. I am a first generation college student majoring in Welding Engineering and minoring in Biomedical Engineering at The Ohio State University. This scholarship will aid in me reaching my graduation goal of fall 2023. Upon graduation, I plan to enroll in a graduate program in Welding Engineering and focus on development of orthopedic implants.”



JESUS HERNANDEZ

Santa Ana College, Welding Technology

Hometown: Garden Grove, CA

Recipient » Carey & Melissa Chen Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

“Your support means so much more than just financial assistance. Your belief in my potential and dedication to my education has given me a tremendous boost of confidence and motivation. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and becoming a skilled and accomplished welder. Once again, thank you for your incredible support, I am deeply grateful. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on my education and future as a welder.”



TREVOR TOWNSON

Ferris State University, Welding Engineering Technology

Hometown: Clarkston, MI

Recipient » ESAB Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

“When I told my mother about receiving this scholarship, she burst into tears and was in disbelief. Ever since my father passed away, money has been tight for my family. So, thanks to the generosity of ESAB, an incredible financial burden has been alleviated. This money will allow me to focus on my studies and practice my craft so that I can excel in the field of welding engineering. I hope to one day become financially sufficient so that I can help struggling students achieve their goals like this scholarship has done for me. Thank you very much for your generosity.”



NATHAN SGRO

Hobart Institute of Welding Technology, Welding

Hometown: Bridgeville, PA

Recipient » Hobart Institute of Welding Technology Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

“I couldn’t be more appreciative for the funds you are providing me with. Attending a school to pursue my education in welding has always been a goal of mine and, with the help of this scholarship, I was able to achieve that goal. I am now one step closer to furthering my career in welding, and I couldn’t be more excited to attend Hobart in the fall. I am deeply appreciative of your support and all the good that you do.”



KAREN RIVAS

Riverside Community College, Welding Technology

Hometown: Sun City, CA

Recipient » William A. Rice Family Women in Welding Scholarship

Amount: \$4,000

“When I first started welding, I fell in love with it immediately. Welding gave my life a new meaning, and it gave me something to strive for. I knew that this was going to be my new career path, and I was right. Almost 5 months ago, I began an apprenticeship as a TIG welder in a fabrication shop with the recommendation from one of my welding instructors who saw potential in me. I am the first and only woman that has worked in that shop. I’m proud to be the first, and I hope I won’t be the last. I hope that I can inspire other women out there who want to pursue welding and the trades.... Thank you for investing in my education and my future as a welder.”



KAYLA BERRY

Pennsylvania College of Technology, Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technology

Hometown: Waldorf, MD

Recipient » Robert W. Worden, Jr. Memorial Scholarship (Washington, DC Section)

Amount: \$1,250

“I am very grateful to be the recipient of the 2023–2024 Robert W. Worden, Jr. Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,250. Your generosity has put me one step closer to paying my way through college. I am currently a senior attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology. I am pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Welding and Fabrication Engineering Technologies and a minor in non-destructive testing. I am excited to continue school in the fall of 2023, and your investment in me is helping to make this possible. Your generous gift has reduced the financial stress on my mom and myself, which will allow me to focus more on my studies. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and makes me want to succeed even more in school so that one day I can pay it forward.”

FROM BOY SCOUT TO WELDING ENGINEER: HOW THE AWS FOUNDATION ILLUMINATED A CAREER PATH



Joshua Farley vividly remembers his first welding experience. When he was 12, he pursued a Boy Scouts Welding Merit Badge. After the initial safety lesson, he got his chance to hold a torch and learn the craft hands-on. He was hooked.

Fast-forward, and Joshua is completing his first year in a prestigious welding engineering program. Over the past six years, he has seized every opportunity presented to him, including several through the American Welding Society Foundation.

BRINGING “LIGHT A SPARK” TO HIS HIGH SCHOOL.

With high school graduation on the horizon, Joshua experienced, as he described, “a case of senioritis.” He also began questioning whether college was right for him, which led him to explore the trades. His school, Paul Duke STEM High School in Norcross, Georgia, had a few welding machines but was not equipped to offer a welding program. But all of that changed with a chance encounter.

Joshua’s mother, Laurie, goes for daily walks with a friend. One day, Laurie mentioned that Joshua was interested in welding, but the school didn’t have a program. The friend just so happened to be the daughter of Tom Mustaleski, a former AWS president.

That conversation led Laurie and Joshua to encourage Paul Duke STEM to apply for the AWS Foundation Light a Spark Grant. The grant, sponsored by Miller Electric and Bechtel Group Foundation, provides a starter welding equipment package that includes a multi-process welding machine, plasma cutter, supplies, personal protective equipment, and a MobileArc™ Augmented Reality Welding System.

Paul Duke STEM was selected to receive the grant, and when the equipment package arrived, local AWS Atlanta Section Chairman Rene Engeron visited the school to help set it up.

FABTECH – AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE.

A school trip to FABTECH in Atlanta was a turning point for Joshua. He fondly recalls spending the entire day at the show with his father. They walked the floor, looking at new technology and learning about different specialties. It was there that Joshua truly appreciated the vast scope of the welding industry.

“It was breathtaking. The size of it. It went forever.”

STARTING HIS COLLEGE JOURNEY.

With his newfound focus, Joshua began looking into welding programs. He chose LeTourneau University, which is renowned for its welding engineering program. What attracted Joshua to LeTourneau were the small class sizes and the balance between classroom instruction and hands-on labs.

Joshua had a successful first year at LeTourneau. He took general studies classes and a welding course in the fall, and chose an elective in advanced manufacturing processes in the spring. Joshua also joined the school’s AWS Student Chapter. That year the organization hosted a welding competition on campus for local high school students, and Joshua enjoyed helping out alongside other members.



Outside of his studies, Joshua joined a go-kart team, where he combined his interests in fabrication and mechanical repairs. The team participated in a six-hour endurance race, during which Joshua helped replace a rear axle and complete a full engine switch after a crash.

STACKING UP SCHOLARSHIPS.

Thanks to his interactions with AWS, Joshua was aware of the AWS Foundation Scholarships. What he didn't know when he filled out the application was how many opportunities were available. Responses from the various scholarships arrived at different times. Initially, he was thrilled to receive the Malcolm T. Gilliland and District 5 scholarships.

Two weeks later, the third – and largest – scholarship notification arrived. To his surprise, Joshua was awarded the \$5,000 ESAB

“I looked into AWS Scholarships, not knowing how many or how awesome they were.”

Victor Technologies Scholarship. The timing couldn't have been better. Joshua had some family members visiting from out of town when he received the award email. “It was special sharing with them,” said Joshua.

Joshua received a total of \$9,000 in AWS Scholarships, which has been crucial in paying for his education.

EXPLORING CAREER POSSIBILITIES.

Joshua enjoys adventures, and welding suits his curiosity. He says, “Just when I think I've figured it all out, there's something new.”

Joshua hasn't decided what area of welding he wants to focus on, but he's happy to know that there is a demand for any direction he goes. He will soon be exploring internship opportunities with an interest in the submarine and refining industries.

What also attracts Joshua to welding is the supportive community, especially from AWS members. “Everyone is genuinely interested in helping the next generation get going,” he added.



ADVICE FOR ASPIRING WELDERS.

For younger students who might be in the same shoes as he was in high school, Joshua encourages them to join and get involved with AWS. “There's no reason not to,” he says. “Everyone you meet has an opportunity or knows someone else who does.”

As Joshua continues to demonstrate, it's wise to take advantage of every chance that comes your way. You never know where they will lead.

EXPANDING WELDING EDUCATION

2023 WELDING WORKFORCE GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Welding Workforce Grant provides up to \$25,000 to expand and improve welding education and training programs to serve the workforce needs of local industry.

- » Clarke County High School (Grove Hill, AL) – *Mobile Section Grant*
- » Denver High School (Denver, IA)
- » Eastern Pulaski Community School (Winamac, IN)
- » Fort Atkinson High School (Fort Atkinson, WI)
- » Hampton University (Hampton, VA)
- » Lamar Institute of Technology (Beaumont, TX)
- » Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills, IL)
- » Power Technical Early College (Colorado Springs, CO)
- » School District of Rhinelander (Rhinelander, WI)
- » Schuylkill Technology Center (Mar Lin, PA)
- » Southwest Technology Center (Altus, OK)
- » Sugar Salem High School (Sugar City, ID)
- » Sullivan County Department of Education (Blountville, TN)
- » University of Alaska Southeast (SITKA) (Juneau, AK)
- » Walla Walla Community College (Walla Walla, WA)
- » Washington County Career Center (Marietta, OH)
- » Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) – *Detroit Section Grant*
- » Westbrook High School (Westbrook, CT)
- » Wewahitchka High School (Wewahitchka, FL) – *Mobile Section Grant*



“The funding provided by the American Welding Society Workforce Grant will directly impact the effectiveness with which Welding Technology at Walla Walla Community College educates welders on welding in a less controlled environment. This contribution, and the matching funding it has inspired, will provide an exterior welding lab where students will be exposed to the elements and faced with mitigating wind, moisture, and temperature variables. In addition, this will provide the opportunity for students to perform basic and preventative maintenance on engine-driven weld machines and related equipment. It’s important to me as a second-generation alumni of the Welding Technology program here at WWCC, to see it continue to grow. The generous grant provided by AWS will directly fund that growth.”

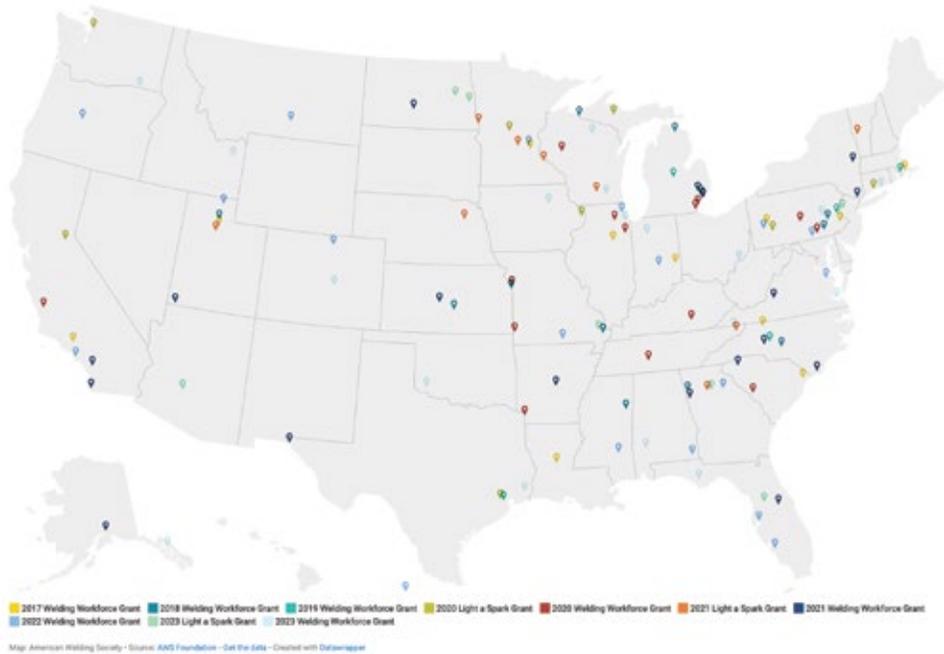
KRIS MARGART | Welding Instructor,
Walla Walla Community College

GRANTS IMPACT

- » More than \$2.3 million in grants has been awarded to 106 schools and welder training programs since 2017.



Scan this QR code for an interactive map of our grant recipients.



“First off, let me start by expressing how exciting it is to be a recipient of the AWS Workforce grant. With this help, we will be able to update to new welding machines for our Washington County Career Center – Adult Technical Training students, which will benefit them while on campus, but also give them an opportunity to use the same modern machines that they will see

in industry. We listen to industry, and most companies are looking for experience with the type of equipment that this grant will allow us to purchase. We are thankful to AWS for helping us serve our students and employer partners.”

AARON HEISS | Adult Technical Training Program Manager, Washington County Career Center





Light a Spark Grant

IGNITING THE SPARK, FUELING THE FUTURE

The Light a Spark Grant supplies a Miller starter welding equipment package valued at more than \$15,000 to high schools that do not currently offer welding instruction. Each package includes a multi-process welding machine, plasma cutter, supplies, personal protective equipment, and a MobileArc™ Augmented Reality Welding System.



“The equipment grant provided by the American Welding Society and Miller Equipment is a game-changer for my Welding Club students. With this generous support, we can now provide a comprehensive introduction to welding, empowering both male and female students to explore this in-demand field. By bridging the skills gap and cultivating a new generation of qualified workers, this grant ensures a thriving future for the welding industry. We are immensely grateful for this opportunity.”

JONATHAN SCHMADEKE | Forensic Science & Physics Teacher Welding Club, Science Department Chair, Millennium High School

2023 RECIPIENTS

- » Bell City High School (Bell City, MO)
- » Griggs County Central (Cooperstown, ND)
- » Millennium High School (Goodyear, AZ)
- » Mountain View High School (Lawrenceville, GA)
- » Northern Cass (Hunter, ND)
- » Warren Hills Regional High School (Washington, NJ)
- » Wildwood Middle-High School (Sumterville, FL)



The Light a Spark Grant is sponsored by the Miller Electric Manufacturing Company and Bechtel Group Foundation.

TAKING WELDING EDUCATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL



WELDING EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The AWS Foundation awarded \$62,000 in total scholarships to welding educators, a 24% increase over the prior year. Scholarships are used by welding educators to pursue advanced degrees or professional development to advance their careers and to better prepare their students for careers in the industry.



“I just wanted to say thank you for your generosity by donating money that helped me improve my teaching career. With the scholarship money, I was able to take a two-day-long seminar through AWS for Welder Performance Qualification, and I am happy to say that I passed my exam and received my endorsement. Now that I have the AWS Welder Performance Qualification endorsement, my goal is to eventually transform my school into an ATF.”

TARRAH DEBORD | Instructor at MIAT College of Technology (Canton, MI)

AMP UP WITH AWS

Educational Institution Membership Campaign

In an effort to support welding schools and highlight AWS educational resources, the AWS Foundation offered complimentary AWS Educational Institution Membership (EIM) to 100 schools and provided a free one-year renewal to all existing member schools. Each of the 100 new members received a welcome package valued at over \$400.

Key Stats

- » Over 50% of EIMs were issued to high school programs
- » Each of AWS's 22 Districts had at least one institution join as an EIM
- » Distribution by school type:
 - University – 5
 - Community College – 19
 - High School – 59
 - Private Training Institute – 17



2023 Complimentary Educational Institution Membership

Shown below are the 100 schools and welding training institutions from 2023 EIM Campaign



INSPIRING INNOVATION

Five graduate students each received a \$35,000 fellowship to support research projects in welding, additive manufacturing, and other allied technologies.



GLENN J. GIBSON FELLOWSHIP

William Siefert, Ohio State University

Local Mechanical Behavior and Hydrogen Assisted Cracking in the Fusion Boundary Region of Dissimilar Metal Welds

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



AWS FELLOWSHIP

Ian Wietecha-Reiman, Pennsylvania State University

Investigating the Interaction Between Fatigue Response and Complex Inclusions in Additively Manufactured Austenitic Stainless Steels

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



MILLER ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY FELLOWSHIP

Alisha Cardanini, University of Alberta

Optimal Location of CVN Notch for HAZ Testing of Single and Multi-Pass Steel Welds

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



AWS FELLOWSHIP

Flint Colvin, Ohio State University

Ultrasonic Assisted Soldering of Metallized-Polymer Current Collectors for Thermal Runaway Resistant Li-Ion Batteries

Under the guidance of Dr. Avi Benatar, Ohio State University



AWS FELLOWSHIP

Ravikiran Kopparthi, University of Alberta

Bond Formation Mechanism of High-Frequency Electric Resistance Welded X65 Pipeline Steel

Under the guidance of Dr. Leijun Li, University of Alberta

Careers in Welding Tour

18 WHEELS, THOUSANDS OF MILES, ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

The AWS Foundation Careers in Welding Tour inspires people from around the country to consider welding as a career choice. The mobile trailer features Lincoln Electric VRTEX virtual welding machines and exhibits that promote the numerous career paths in the field.



2023 TOUR STOPS

- Wings Over South Texas | Corpus Christi, TX
- Castaic High School | Castaic, CA
- LA County Fair | Pomona, CA
- LA Fleet Week | Los Angeles, CA
- National Scout Jamboree | Summit Bechtel Reserve, WV
- Minnesota State Fair | St. Paul, MN
- FABTECH | Chicago, IL
- OSU Farm Science Review | London, OH
- STS Steel | Schenectady, NY
- New Hampshire Construction Career Days | New Boston, NH
- Fryeburg Fair | Fryeburg, ME
- United Steel | Hartford, CT
- Capone Iron | Rowley, MA
- SunBelt Ag Expo | Moultrie, GA
- FFA Expo | Indianapolis, IN

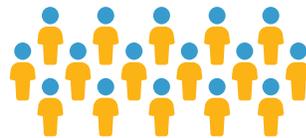
The Careers in Welding Exhibit is sponsored by Lincoln Electric Company.



17 EVENTS
43 EVENT DAYS



38,778
VIRTUAL WELDS



50,292
VISITORS

43

\$1,000 TOP SCORE
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED



SHINING A NEW LIGHT ON A TIMELESS TRAINING PRACTICE



As companies continue to face challenges finding skilled welders, many have taken the initiative to establish registered apprenticeship programs.

To assist in these efforts, the AWS Foundation launched [WeldingApprenticeship.com](https://www.aws-foundation.com/welding-apprenticeship) an employer-focused resource for welding Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Visitors to the site are invited to contact the AWS Foundation for additional support; in the past year, 15 employers began the process of implementing an apprenticeship program using the new AWS Certified Welder National Guideline Standard (NGS).

The AWS Foundation is at the forefront of a new effort to create an NGS for the Certified Welding Inspector occupation, with anticipated approval by the Department of Labor in early 2024.



FABTECH Chicago featured a panel discussion that explored welding apprenticeships and their pivotal role in shaping the future of skilled welders. Joe Young, AWS Foundation Senior Manager, Workforce Development, served as moderator. Featured panelists included Matt Scott, Welding Instructor and Department Chair, Portland Community College; Brent Weil, Subject Matter Expert, Jobs for the Future; Samuel Chance, Welding Engineer, Vermeer Corporation; and Kevin Joustra, Engineering Specialist, Caterpillar.

EXTENDING OUR IMPACT



CAREERSINWELDING.COM is now part of the new AWS.org. The site was rebuilt from the ground up with enhanced search, responsive design, and a tailored member experience. Career profiles feature the latest information on salaries, education requirements, and job demand.

WELDINGWORKFORCEDATA.COM remains the premier source for the most up-to-date and accurate welding workforce projections demographics, salary information, and industry data.



WOMEN IN WELDING VIRTUAL AUTOMATION CONFERENCE AWS Foundation Executive Director Monica Pfarr served as organizer and moderator for the Women in Welding Virtual Conference: Automation in Manufacturing that took place on March 16. The virtual conference featured numerous speakers, including Shannon M. Roe, Assistant Director, Advanced Manufacturing Sciences Institute, Metropolitan State University of Denver; Connie LaMorte, Principal Engineer, EWI; Katie Sheridan, Applications Engineer, Vectis Automation; and Karen Gilgenbach, Zone Vice President, MATHESON.



WELDING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AWS Foundation staff led a webinar focused on workforce development and training resources for minority-owned small businesses in manufacturing. The event was in partnership with the San Antonio MBDA Advanced Manufacturing Center, TMAC South Central Region – SwRI, and the San Antonio Manufacturing Association.



AISC STEEL DAYS Steel Days is an annual celebration of the structural steel industry, sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction. Each year, events are held throughout the country to show the public firsthand how the U.S. structural steel industry works to build the nation's buildings and bridges. To help celebrate the role of welding in the structural steel industry, the AWS Careers in Welding Tour made stops at Steel Day events at STS Steel (Schenectady, NY), United Steel (Hartford, CT), and Capone Iron (Rowley, MA).



CUE CAREER Cue Career serves as a platform that aggregates industry association resources for career exploration, workforce development, and career guidance. The AWS Foundation has collaborated with Cue Career since 2020 to promote welding and career opportunities among middle and high school students, primarily in California and neighboring states. This collaboration has resulted in over 200k pageviews of AWS content on the platform between 2022 and 2023. View the AWS page on Cue Career at www.cuecareer.com/industryassociation/aws/.



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AWS Student Membership (formerly \$15/year) is now free for all students for up to four years. The AWS Foundation partnered with AWS Membership to mail welcome letters to all new student members. The letters included an assortment of stickers and information about scholarships and other AWS resources.

Weld-Ed

JOINING FORCES



START PROGRAM: INTRODUCING WELDING TECHNICIANS TO ADVANCED RESEARCH

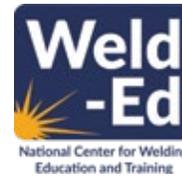
In 2023, Weld-Ed partnered with the Manufacturing and Materials Joining Innovation Center (Ma²JIC) at Ohio State University to develop the START Program. START, which stands for Skills Training in Advanced Research & Technology, provides community college welding technician students an opportunity to participate in research internships at local universities.

During the pilot program, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), eight students from Columbus State Community College expanded their research capabilities and knowledge of materials joining while working with faculty and students at Ohio State University's Welding Engineering Department.

Students had the opportunity to research and evaluate new welding processes, learn about the operation of advanced joining and research equipment, and participate in collaborative team research.

START will soon expand with a partnership between the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Pellissippi State Community College. Additionally, students from Lorain County Community College and North Dakota State College of Science will have the opportunity to participate in hybrid internships, where research and training is conducted at both their home schools and at Ohio State University.

A key goal of the START program is to encourage welding technicians to explore advanced joining technologies, and there's already proof that it's working: One student from Columbus State Community College plans to continue her education in the Materials Joining Engineering program at Ohio State University.



Weld-Ed NSF-ATE Center is a national consortium of more than 500 welding industry affiliates, community and

technical colleges, and universities dedicated to expanding the role and number of well-educated and trained welding technicians in the industry. Lorain Community College in Elyria, Ohio, and AWS serve as consortium leads, and AWS Foundation Executive Director Monica Pfarr and AWS Past President Rick Polanin serve as co-Principal Investigators.



Ma²JIC is one of the nation's most successful Industry and University

Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC), with 40+ member companies in aerospace, batteries, power generation, oil and gas, automotive, defense, and more. The center member companies work with students and faculty across the five university sites. Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, serves as the lead, with Colorado School of Mines, University of Tennessee Knoxville, University of Waterloo, and Penn State University serving as the partner sites.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Special thanks to the staff of the American Welding Society, who contributed more than \$20,000 during the annual staff campaign.

2023 AWS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTORS

The AWS Foundation received more than \$900,000 in donations in 2023. The companies, members, individuals, and AWS Sections who donated over \$1,000 to support scholarships, grants, and other workforce development initiatives are listed below.

\$200,000+

Bechtel Group Foundation

\$150,000+

Lincoln Electric Company

\$50,000+

Aim High Jerry Clay Scholarship, LLC

\$25,000+

Toni Clay

AWS Central Arkansas Section

AWS Chicago Section

AWS Milwaukee Section

AWS Sacramento Section

AWS St. Louis Section

\$10,000+

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AWS JAK Section

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AWS Syracuse Section

AWS York-Lancaster Section

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AWS Columbus Section

AWS District 13

PLATINUM LEVEL SUPPORTERS

The AWS Foundation would like to give special thanks to its Platinum Level Supporters, who have donated more than \$1 million to support scholarships and other workforce development initiatives.

- › American Welding Society
- › Lincoln Electric Company and the Lincoln Electric Foundation
- › Miller Electric Manufacturing Company

**OUR WORK IS
NEVER DONE.**

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

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or grant endowment, contact Monica Pfarr, Executive Director of the AWS Foundation, at 786-937-9641 or mpfarr@aws.org.

All donations to scholarships and grants are matched 100% by the AWS Foundation.



**FEATURED
PHOTOGRAPHER
– STEPHANIE
HAJDUCEK**

The photographs featured in this year's Impact Report are courtesy of Stephanie Hajducek, founder of 'This One's For The Gals,' a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in South Texas. 'This One's For The Gals' assists girls in learning about career pathways in construction, energy, and manufacturing through an annual 'Women in Industry' conference, workshops, school visits, and children's books featuring women in skilled trades careers.



Learn more about Stephanie and This One's For The Gals at thisonesforthegals.com.



Founded in 1989, the AWS Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the American Welding Society, the nonprofit organization with a global mission to advance the science, technology, and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes.

The AWS Foundation works to ensure the growth and development of the welding industry through various initiatives, including career awareness, scholarship programs, and grants to institutions that offer welding education and training.

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we rely on the generosity of our partners who understand the value of welding and its role in building a better, stronger economy.

aws.org/foundation

