



**American Welding Society®**

---

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Cindy Weihl  
American Welding Society  
800-443-9353 ext 416  
[cweihl@aws.org](mailto:cweihl@aws.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AWS Names 2009 Image of Welding Award Winners**

**MIAMI, FL., September 23, 2009** –The American Welding Society (AWS) and the Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO) announced today the recipients of the 2009 Seventh Annual Image of Welding Awards. Issued in six categories, these awards recognize individuals and organizations that have shown exemplary dedication to promoting the image of welding in their communities.

Each winner will be honored at the Image of Welding Awards Ceremony taking place at 11:15 am on November 16, 2009, at the FABTECH International and AWS Welding Show. The show will run from November 15 through November 18 at the McCormick Place Conference Center in Chicago, IL.

The winners of these prestigious awards are instrumental in raising the image of welding and strengthening the industry.

Following are all the 2009 Image of Welding Award winners:

**Individual Category – Jennifer McCall, Carlsbad, CA** – A marketing professional at Arc-Zone.com, McCall has taken the lead on developing two industry leading blogs for Arc-Zone.com: JoeWelder.com and CarmenElectrode.com. Through the blogs, McCall profiles interesting welders including women welders who weld in a variety of industries, chipping away at some of the most lingering stereotypes. Her blogs also feature a variety of welding applications and in 2008 received over 130,000 web views.

**Section Category – Indiana Chapter** - As one of AWS' most active Sections, the Indiana Section is committed to promoting the image of welding throughout their state. The section has conducted the Indiana Skills USA contest for both the Indiana State and Indianapolis Regional Contests. They've also worked to bring a 4-H Welding competition to the Indiana State Fair and they run the Mid-West Team Welding Competition, a three day event involving 20 to 25 high school welding teams from Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. The section also gives back to the community, most recently by building an art project on the grounds of an elementary school in Fishers, Indiana. The project was aimed at offering the city a better understanding of why welding is so important to their community.

**Large Business – Burtek Inc., Chesterfield, MI** – A world-class military and commercial truck modifier and equipment up-fitter, Burtek utilizes its engineering prowess to produce several tow tractors, cargo bodies, troop carriers, crane trucks and integrated van bodies. The company employs over 300 people and consists of three ISO9001-2000 facilities which can utilize 205,000 square feet of high tech, flexible manufacturing environments which can be rapidly reconfigured. The company gives back to the community in a variety of ways. Most recently Burtek donated computers, tables and chairs to the children's section of the Chesterfield Township Library which the library has named the Burtek Children's Technology Center.

**Distributor – WESCO, Prichard, AL** - WESCO, a family owned independent distributor of gas and welding products has been committed to providing excellent service for over 48 years. The company is fully invested in the tools and facilities needed to be committed to training the future welders of America. Their facility in Prichard, AL is fully equipped to train and certify welders in a wide array of processes and applications. WESCO is one of the few AWS Accredited Test Facilities in the region.

**Educator – Jeff Smith, Pryor, OK** – A welding instructor at Northeast Technology Center in Pryor, OK, Smith is a licensed welder who has been teaching for the past nine years. Smith encourages his students to work as a team and his encouragement and guidance have made a success out of every one of his students. By year end, the students in Smith's class have constructed a 50-foot pipeline in the classroom showing the commitment and value of teamwork instilled in the students. Smith's prowess as a successful welding instructor is so well-known now that his students call his class "Jeff Smith's School of Welding."

**Educational Facility – Metropolitan Community College (MCC), Omaha, NE** – Aside from offering multiple levels of welding program completion ranging from an Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology to a certificate of achievement in various areas, MCC's Welding School also provides dual credit welding courses to students in area high schools. Its welding program also benefits the community through its "Amis Family Foundation Program" which along with other community partners takes primarily non-English speaking individuals and provides them with English speaking skills while training them to become welders. MCC's welding program is also very active in the community with regard to

donation of time for area projects. The program has been involved with the restoration of the Korean/Vietnam War Memorial sculpture and has donated a new walkway railing for the Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, among other projects.

About AWS

*The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 50,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on "Pressroom."*

About WEMCO

*The Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO) is a standing committee of the American Welding Society. The committee is comprised of executives from welding industry suppliers to promote the welding equipment market. Enhancing the image of welding as a critical industry is amongst their priority programs. For more information on WEMCO membership and benefits, visit the committees website at [www.aws.org/wemco](http://www.aws.org/wemco).*

###