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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## AWS Names 2011 Image of Welding Award Winners

**MIAMI, Fla., November 21, 2011** –The American Welding Society (AWS) and the Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO) have named the recipients of the 2011 Ninth Annual Image of Welding Awards. Issued in seven categories, these awards recognize individuals and organizations that have shown exemplary dedication to promoting the image of welding in their communities.

The winners were honored at the Image of Welding Awards Ceremony which took place on November 16, 2011, at the FABTECH show in Chicago.

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

Following are all the 2011 Image of Welding Award winners:

**Individual Category – Bennie D. Flynn – Solberry, Ind.**

A welder for over 20 years, Flynn has been the backbone of the AWS Indiana Section and has held every office within the section. He has previously received every AWS Section and District Award. Mr. Flynn is focused on the future of the welding industry and continually gives back to the community. He is currently working on I.V. poles for the Riley Children's Hospital

**Educator Category - Roderick S. McDonald – Aberdeen, Wash.**

McDonald has been a welding instructor at Grays Harbor College for over 10 years and involved in the welding industry for over 30 years. During his time at Grays Harbor College he has completely redesigned the welding curriculum to meet industry standard and has been recognized by his peers as an excellent instructor. He received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Washington Association of Occupational Educators in 2003.

### **Educational Facility – Perry Technical Institute – Yakima, Wash.**

Perry Technical has been a leader in vocational training for over 70 years. The welding program at the school has very strict quality assurance and quality control practices which are maintained throughout the course of the training process. In addition to showing students how to weld, instructors also teach students to read blueprints and fabricate.

### **Small Business – Nelson Stud Welding – Elyria, Ohio**

Founded more than 65 years ago, Nelson Stud Welding is a leading global manufacturer and distributor of weld stud fasteners and application equipment. The company is focused on the future of the industry, providing free seminars to students interested in welding. Purdue University and Lorain Community College recently became beneficiaries of new equipment donated by Nelson.

### **Large Business – Hunter Engineering Company – Durant, Miss.**

Opened in 1976, Hunter is a leader in automotive under carriage service equipment. The company sponsors scholarships for Holmes Community College welding classes and members of the management team serve on the advisory committee to the community college's welding curriculum.

### **AWS Section – Black Hills Student Chapter – Rapid City, S.D.**

Black Hills Student Chapter is made up of members from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the Western Dakota Technical Institute. The chapter gives back to the community in several ways including repairing a local children's park and hosting a summer program which works with students ranging from elementary to college to show them different welding technologies.

### **Distributor – Oxarc Inc. – Spokane, Wash.**

Oxarc is the largest welding products distributor in Eastern Washington. Employees are active members of AWS and the backbone of the Spokane Section. The company provides their state of the art training and conference center for AWS section and district conferences and their facility is also used to support student chapters and members.

Nominations for the 2012 Image of Welding Awards are currently open. To nominate an individual or company who exemplifies the image of welding, please visit

<http://www.aws.org/w/a/awards/image.html>

### 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 68,000 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).*

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