



American Welding Society®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Welding Society Revs Up Enthusiasm for Welding Education at Indianapolis 500

MIAMI, Fla., May 16, 2012 – Indy Car enthusiasts know welding is an essential component of motorsports and so the American Welding Society is bringing its new *Careers in Welding Trailer* to Indianapolis on May 23 – 27, 2012 to give fans an opportunity to try virtual welding and excite them about a career in the welding industry.

“In motorsports and in today’s workforce, there is a real need for welders,” said Monica Pfarr, corporate director, workforce development, American Welding Society. “If you are into motorsports then you know that welding is an essential component of building the race cars, repairing them and keeping the drivers safe. The *Careers in Welding Trailer* provides a fun way to get people to explore what welding is all about as well as all the industries that need welders.”

An analysis of projected data that was gathered through the efforts of the Weld-Ed, a National Science Foundation funded center, shows that by 2019 there will be a need for at least 238,692 new and replacement welding professionals.

The 53-foot, single expandable trailer is sponsored by the American Welding Society and Lincoln Electric and features 650 square feet of exhibit space, including five Lincoln VRTEX 360 welding simulator stations. The VRTEX 360 feeds computer-generated data with a virtual welding gun and

helmet equipped with internal monitors. The participant practices welding in virtual environments which include simulated welding-booth training environments or field-welding applications. The simulator also has a video gaming component that awards each “welder” with a score for his or her weld.

In addition to the simulators, the *Careers in Welding Trailer* provides other interactive educational exhibits, including a display wall featuring 11 industry segments with trivia questions, fun facts, and industry artifacts; a “Day in the Life of a Welder” exhibit with videos depicting real-life environments in which welders work; a life-size welder highlighting welding as a safe profession; a social media kiosk allowing visitors to take their photo and post to Facebook or email to a friend; welding scholarship information; and more.

The *Careers in Welding Trailer* is the only mobile exhibit on the road today that offers an educational experience and informs visitors of career opportunities in the welding industry. Indianapolis is the first tour stop for the trailer which made its debut last November.

Following the Indianapolis 500, the trailer will be on the road for 18-24 weeks, targeting events with youth between the ages of 13 and 19 and adults searching for a second career.

All racing and welding enthusiasts are invited to visit the *Careers in Welding Trailer* for free on May 23 – 27, 2012. The trailer will be in the east parking lot of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, 4790 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, Ind.

For more information, please visit www.explorewelding.com.

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 70,000 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 AWS Foundation

The AWS Foundation was established by the American Welding Society on September 13, 1989, to support programs that ensure the growth and development of the welding industry through strengthening research and educational opportunities in welding and related industries. Led by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Foundation is organized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Administration, including program development, fundraising, public relations, marketing and financial management, is provided by a small development staff of the American Welding Society. Its operations are conducted from the Society's offices in Miami, Florida. For more information, visit <http://www.aws.org/foundation> .

About The Lincoln Electric Company

[The Lincoln Electric Company](#), headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, is a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of arc welding products, robotic arc welding systems, fume control systems, plasma and oxyfuel cutting equipment and has a leading global position in the brazing and soldering alloys market.

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