



**American Welding Society®**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **American Welding Society's *Careers in Welding Trailer* Rolls into Kansas City During SkillsUSA Conference**

**MIAMI, Fla., June 20, 2012** – The future of America's skilled workforce will get a chance to experience the American Welding Society's new *Careers in Welding Trailer* when it rolls into Kansas City, Mo. at the same time as more than 5,000 outstanding career and technical education students descend upon the city for the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference on June 23 – 27, 2012.

The SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) is a showcase of career and technical education students. The students compete hands-on in 94 different trade and technical leadership fields.

“The NLSC brings together the top technical students from across the U.S. to compete against each other and so these students are fully aware of the critical shortage that faces our skilled labor workforce,” said Monica Pfarr, corporate director, workforce development, American Welding Society. “Bringing the trailer to Kansas City allows young people to explore what welding is all about and learn more about how they can get into the industry.”

An analysis of projected data that was gathered through the efforts of 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, expandable trailer is sponsored by the American Welding Society (AWS) 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. Kansas City is only the second tour stop for the trailer which made its debut last November.

Following its visit to Kansas City the trailer will be on the road about 20 weeks, targeting events with youth between the ages of 13 and 19 and adults searching for a second career.

The trailer will be located on Central Avenue in downtown Kansas City, near the Barney Allis Plaza. Free tours are available Sunday, June 24 – Tuesday, June 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.explorewelding.com](http://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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