



American Welding Society®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWS Names 10th Annual Image of Welding Award Winners

MIAMI, Fla., November 19, 2012 –The American Welding Society (AWS) and the Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO) have announced the recipients of the 2012 annual Image of Welding Awards. In its tenth year, awards are issued in eight 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 15, 2012, at the FABTECH show in Las Vegas.

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

Following are all the 2012 Image of Welding Award winners:

Individual Category – Ernest D. Levert – Dallas, TX

Ernest D. Levert is the Senior Staff Manufacturing Engineer for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Dallas, Texas. He served as President of the American Welding Society in 2002-2003. For his continuous efforts in support of AWS's mission, he is now recognized as an AWS Counselor, Distinguished, and Lifetime Member. As an internationally recognized Welding Engineering Subject Matter Expert who specializes in laser and electron beam welding technologies, Mr. Levert has singularly written procedures and developed polices and processes that provide essential structural integrity and allow verifiable and secure access to foreign markets for many Lockheed Martin products. A role-model in and out of the welding industry, Mr. Levert averages over 1,100 hours of volunteer service to the Boy Scouts of America and local schools each year. He also participates in career fairs, serves as a science fair judge, and is Director of Scouting Ministry at Westside Baptist Church.

Educator Category – David Parker – Renton, WA

David Parker has been an instructor at Renton Community College for over 30 years. During his time at the college he has received several awards including the statewide, 2001 Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the Washington Association of Occupational Educators. In addition to teaching at RCC, Mr. Parker has helped several companies set up curriculums for welding training programs and has worked for several years to promote non-traditional trades for women.

Educational Facility – Washtenaw Community College – Ann Arbor, MI

Washtenaw Community College's welding and fabrication facility currently has 60 large, newly redesigned welding booths equipped with the latest technology to handle varying processes. With a staff of all industry-experienced and AWS certified instructors, WCC offers both certificate and associate degree welding programs. It is one of the few facilities in Michigan that is authorized by AWS to certify welders. As a testament to the instruction received at WCC, student welders have represented the USA at the last two WorldSkills competitions in welding and brought home medals both times.

Small Business – AMET Inc. – Rexburg, ID

AMET was started in 1989 and offers turn-key automated welding systems to the welding industry. It has been an innovator and integrator of computerized welding systems to meet demanding application in nuclear, aerospace, oil & gas, wind tower, heavy industry, and general manufacturing industries.

Large Business – Vermeer Corporation – Pella, IA

Since its start in 1948, Vermeer Corporation has grown from a one-person Iowa operation, to an international organization that manufactures agricultural, construction, environmental, and industrial equipment. Aside from being a leader in the manufacturing industry, Vermeer is dedicated to the future of the welding workforce and has begun facilitating plans for a career academy enlisting the assistance of educational institutions in the area in order to train high school students in welding as well as additional skills in manufacturing.

Distributor – WELSCO – Little Rock, AK

WELSCO is the largest woman-owned gas and welding supply distributor in the U.S. It is also a family business that has served the market for over 70 years. WELSCO is very active in the advancement of welding as a career and sponsors local SkillsUSA competitions as well as the Arkansas Welding Expo. In addition, they offer process training sessions for vocational and technical instructors during their summer breaks

AWS Section – Houston Section – Houston, TX

The AWS Houston Section is one of the most active AWS sections in the country. They sponsor various events throughout the year including an instructor's institute, student certification day, spring and fall educational sessions and student nights. This year they have awarded eight welding scholarships totaling \$8,500.

Media – Meghan Boyer – “Help Wanted, Skills Required”

Published in the February 2012 issue of the *FF Journal*, Meghan Boyer's article “Help Wanted, Skills Required,” focuses on the need manufacturers have for workers, Americans who need jobs, and the skills gap that is keeping them apart.

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 nearly 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 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.

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