



**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**

**American Welding Society 2012 President Bill Rice Donates \$50,000 for Welding Scholarships**

**MIAMI, Fla., January 8, 2013** – The American Welding Society’s (AWS) 2012 President William “Bill” Rice is making lasting contributions to the future of the welding industry and closed out his presidential year with generous donations.

During the grand opening celebration of the American Welding Society’s new global headquarters in late November, Rice announced that he and wife Cherry donated \$50,000 for a new scholarship intended to help women interested in welding careers. The American Welding Society Foundation then matched that donation for a total of \$100,000. The match comes on the heels of AWS announcing that for a limited time, all donations to existing Named Scholarships or new Named Scholarships will be matched dollar for dollar. The AWS Board of Directors approved the matching program to provide more students with the opportunity to cover their welding education tuition

The William A. Rice Family, Women in Welding National Endowed Scholarship, is targeted to help women in welding who are pursuing a four year degree program with an emphasis on welding related engineering degrees. Although women applicants will receive preference, men may apply as well. A recipient may reapply for multiple years while working toward the engineering degree requirements.

“The cost of an education should not deter the dream of those that are dedicated to advancing the future of the welding industry,” said Ray Shook, executive director, American Welding Society. “AWS could not

be more appreciative to the Rice family for their generous gift which will support and strengthen the industry.”

In addition to the new scholarship, the Rice's also donated a special bronze sculpture that commemorates welders. The sculpture will sit at the front entrance of the new AWS headquarters.

To learn more about how to apply for scholarships from the American Welding Society, please visit [www.aws.org/foundation](http://www.aws.org/foundation) .

#### 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 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> .*

###