



**American Welding Society®**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **American Welding Society Encourages Community College Welding Programs to Seek TAACCCT Grant Funding**

**MIAMI, Fla., April 21, 2014** – The American Welding Society (AWS) announced today that it commends the objectives of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) round four requests for grant applications.

This round of funding is the final installment of \$450 million US Labor Department grants available to expand job-driven training partnerships between community colleges and employers.

“This TAACCCT grant is timely in that the welding education and training infrastructure have evolved to the point where a national system can be developed to provide multiple pathways for adults to enter and grow their career,” said Dennis Harwig, chief technology officer, American Welding Society.

“Critical needs for this solution include educating and training educators so they understand industry technology requirements, building articulation between community colleges for national core curriculum yet offering a range of advanced electives to meet specific regional needs, and creating accelerated pathways that recruit more adults into modern metal fabrication careers,” he said.

AWS has been working closely with several community colleges to understand the challenges that exist between educators and employers to prepare adults for careers in metal fabrication and manufacturing where welding and its allied technologies are critical to American competitiveness. The Society has also been involved in developing a national core curriculum for technicians through the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Center for Welding Education and Training (Weld-Ed).

In addition, AWS has been and continues to, develop personnel qualification standards, education technology and training, and credentialing services for building and bridge fabrications, energy and chemical plants, pipelines, automotive, aerospace, and heavy manufacturing industries. Welding skills are in high demand in these industries. There are many high paying career pathways that begin with education and training in welding technology.

Facing a shortage of over 216,000 welding industry professionals by 2020, AWS encourages community colleges to develop education, training and qualification capabilities that meet the needs of companies who often struggle to develop their workforce.

“This TAACCCT grant opportunity provides critical resources that could significantly improve education and training capabilities for adults, and has potential to significantly impact the competitiveness of American fabricators and manufacturers,” said Harwig.

Colleges applying for grants and wanting to learn more about AWS programs should contact AWS at 800-443-9353.

#### 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 process worldwide, 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."*

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