



American Welding Society

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWS Names 2014 Image of Welding Award Winners

MIAMI, Fla., November 13, 2014 –The American Welding Society (AWS) and WEMCO, an association of welding manufacturers, have announced the recipients of the 12th Annual Image of Welding Awards. 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 12, 2014, at the FABTECH show in Atlanta, GA.

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

Following are all the 2014 Image of Welding Award winners:

- **Individual – Justin W. Gordy – Houston, TX**

Currently the youngest SCWI in the world, Justin Gordy has an associate's degree in welding and inspection technology and is an ASNT Level 3 Certified UT Inspector. Along with his wife Heather, they currently operate J-TECH Inspections, an inspection, welding engineering consulting and services company. Mr. Gordy has served on the AWS Houston Section's Board as a Chairman and Past Chairman. His hard work and dedication to the welding industry led the AWS Houston Section to establish the 'AWS Houston Section Justin Gordy Spirit of Welding Award'. Mr. Gordy was the first recipient of this award and it will be given annually to a Houston Section member.

- **Educator– Kevin Carter – Petersburg, IN**

An AWS Certified Welding Inspector and Educator, Mr. Carter has been a welding instructor at Pike Central High School in Petersburg, Indiana for the past 32 years. Mr. Carter has won several awards during his long career and he consistently places students in apprenticeships or employment where students are praised for their knowledge and skill, even compared to local compared to local community college graduates. Among his students accomplishments are 16 state SkillsUSA champions, 12 Midwest Team Welding Competition first places finishes, and seven top three finishes in the national SkillsUSA Championships.

- Educational Facility – Lynnes Welding Training – Fargo, ND**

Lynnes Welding Training was the vision of Dave Lynnes, owner and CEO of the welding school. Lynnes has more than 25 years of experience and a passion for the welding industry, having served in the trenches as a pipe welder and achieved AWS and CWB certification as a welding inspector and an AWS certification as a pipe welder. Since Lynnes Welding Training opened its doors in 2006, the school has sought to provide its students with the best possible welding instruction. Lynnes Welding Training has also made it a priority to educate post-secondary school administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, and others in key positions to provide career advice to students of all ages. Staff from the school speaks to local schools and career fairs, and makes presentations at career and technical professional development conferences. They've also collaborated with the North Dakota Boy Scouts to help host Welding Merit Badge clinics.
- Small Business – Tri Tool Inc. – Rancho Cordova, CA**

Tri Tool is a leading manufacturer of weld prep machining equipment. For over 40 years professionals in a wide variety of industries and technical fields have depended on Tri Tool to consistently produce the finest tube and pipe cutting machinery. Welding education is extremely important to Tri Tool and in 1998, the company started the Tri Tool Inc., Sacramento Section Named Scholarship in conjunction with the AWS Foundation, providing nearly \$50,000 to many local students. Recently the company developed their "Pipeline of People" committee to reach students in Northern California and Nevada with an effort to nurture their education and find high quality individuals who could be fostered in the welding and manufacturing industries. Tri Tool also gives back to the community in a number of ways including assisting in a local Eagle Scout project to build ramp handrails and guardrails for the Folsom Sport Complex, intended to assist physically challenged individuals.
- Large Business – CB&I – Plainfield, IL**

For over 125 years, CB&I has provided reliable solutions while maintaining a relentless focus on safety and uncompromising standard of quality. The company's achievements have led them to become the most complete energy infrastructure focused company in the world and a major provider of government services. Dedicated to promoting the image of welding and teamwork in each of their communities, company employees volunteer their time in health, education and human service organizations in their communities and across the globe. The company also supports social economic and cultural development initiatives in conjunction with many of their major projects.
- Distributor – AWISCO – Maspeth, NY**

Serving the New York Metropolitan area since 1979, AWISCO is a leading distributor of compressed gases, welding, safety and industrial equipment and supplies. The company is dedicated to the future of the welding industry, recently inviting more than 100 welding students and their teachers from the New York area as special guests to AWISCO's annual trade show. The company frequently gives demonstrations and presentations at local schools and has collaborated with Sussex Technical School to organize and present workforce development awards for graduating students. Often extending a positive image of welding beyond the industry, AWISCO is also a proud supporter of breast cancer awareness and recently created a marketing program selling pink extension cords and pledging 10 dollars for every cord sold between October 1st and December 31st.
- AWS Section – Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI**

As an active AWS Section, the Milwaukee Section is dedicated to advancing and supporting the welding industry and its future leaders. The section typically gives over \$5,000 in Section scholarships every year. They also give away helmets, welding kits, and other equipment to students throughout the year. In conjunction with the AWS D16 Committee, the section hosts a conference every other years and used the proceeds to start an endowment that is giving out an additional \$10,500 to Weld Engineering Students. The Section frequently hosts tours and events at manufacturing facilities to allow those interested in the field to observe welding in action. As a service to its members, companies, students and welders, the AWS Milwaukee Section is also beginning a concerted effort to assist companies in reaching potential welding related employees. They have asked members currently hiring welders and related employees to email them the positions they are looking to fill and then posting the information through their Facebook page, LinkedIn group, and their website.
- Media – Heesun Wee – CNBC – 'American manufacturing and welding to women: We want you!'**

Heesun Wee is a features reporter and editor for CNBC.com, where she covers a broad range of topics including entrepreneurship, manufacturing, emerging markets and the North Korean economy. In February 2014, Wee wrote the CNBC.com article 'American manufacturing and welding to women: We want you!' highlighting the shortage of welders in the US and the importance of attracting more women into the industry. View the article at <http://www.cnbc.com/id/101385929>.

The FABTECH show ran from November 11 - 13 at the Georgia World Congress Center and also featured a variety of seminars, conferences, professional and educational programs.

Nominations for the 2015 awards which will now be known as the Excellence in Welding Awards, are now open. For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit <http://www.aws.org/w/a/awards/image.html>

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 worldwide, 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 WEMCO

WEMCO, an association of welding manufacturers, 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 committee's website at www.aws.org/wemco.

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