



**American Welding Society**



# NEWS FROM AWS

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## **AWS NEW WELDING CAREER GUIDE HIGHLIGHTS GROWING DEMAND AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELDERS**

*-- FREE Career Guide Available for Students, Parents and Teachers*

*-- Features Success Stories, Scholarship and Local AWS Chapter Information and Career Profiles*

**Miami, FL, February 5, 2008** –With nearly half of the North American welder workforce due to retire soon, this country faces a potential shortage of more than 200,000 skilled welders by 2010. Several U.S. construction and manufacturing companies continue to report significant problems due to the shortage, including slowed or halted production, according to the American Welding Society (AWS).

To help combat this problem, AWS, the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding, today announced its publication of a new welding career guide, *Your Career in Welding*, and it is available free to students, teachers, guidance counselors and parents.

"Our quality of life is dependent on the strength of our manufacturing, construction and maintenance and repair industries and each of these industries require welding professionals to thrive," said Ray Shook, AWS executive director. "But too many welders are retiring and too few students are entering the field. Quick measures must be taken to help this situation, including promoting the excellent and diverse welding career opportunities that are available."

The AWS welding career guide is being offered on the AWS website: [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org). It is intended for use as a complete welding industry resource and essential recruitment tool. The guide features general information about welding and AWS, industry success stories, AWS scholarships, student chapter locations, and other comprehensive information about a range of welding careers and entryways into the industry.

"The new AWS welding career guide is an incredibly useful tool for introducing students to the welding industry's many positive attributes and diversifications while highlighting various career paths and entryways," said

David Cotner, welding department head at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. "I look forward to sharing this with my students as well as others who are interested in a career in welding or its many related fields."

The various career choices and pathways featured in the guide present information on typical work environments and career demands. For example, under the welding sales career profile, common daily activities are mentioned as well as possible job requirements and types of products sold. Additional welding careers highlighted are: welding engineer; underwater welder; welding salesperson; welding technician; welding educator; and welding machine operator.

The career guide is part of a wider AWS program, the *Welder Workforce Development Program*, which is aimed at drawing positive attention to the welding industry. In 2006 the AWS Foundation, a subsidiary of AWS, launched this program to address the critical need for recruitment and specialized training of entry level welders while supporting industry workforce needs. The *Welder Workforce Development Program* is an essential component of the AWS Foundation's \$10 million capital campaign, *Welding for the Strength of America*, which is aimed at facilitating programs, scholarships and other initiatives in support of the welding industry.

**To receive your free welding career guide** please visit the AWS webpage at [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org) and press the tab marked "careers." Requests can also be made by calling 800-443-9353, ext 248, or via email at [weldingcareers@aws.org](mailto:weldingcareers@aws.org).

**\*\*\*Note: To view the photo and caption, please visit the [press photo gallery](http://www.aws.org/pr/photos.html) in AWS' press room: <http://www.aws.org/pr/photos.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, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 50,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 districts with 250 sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the Society's website at and click on "[pressroom](#)."*

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For the latest AWS news and information, please visit the Society's pressroom at <http://www.aws.org/pr/pressroom.html>

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