



North America's Largest Metal Forming, Fabricating & Welding Event

NEWS RELEASE:

FABTECH INT'L & AWS WELDING SHOW TO FEATURE JOB FAIR AND FIRST EVER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PAVILION

Pavilion Provides Resources and Unites Scarce Industry Professionals with Employers in Need

Chicago, IL, October 15, 2007 – In response to a skilled worker shortage that continues to strain businesses across the nation, the 2007 FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show will bring real solutions to frustrated employers. Taking place November 11 – 14, 2007 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois, the event features a Job Fair and Workforce Development Pavilion. The annual Job Fair allows employers to meet one-on-one and possibly recruit from a pool of more than 15,000 industry professionals. New this year, the Workforce Development pavilion will bring together employment service providers, recruitment counselors, educational institutions, and government liaisons to offer their support and assistance in workforce development and employment-related opportunities.

Fewer students entering the industry, coupled with the potential retirement of half of the country's highly trained workforce, have led to a shortage of skilled workers in U.S. manufacturing. "It is increasingly imperative that we maintain and grow America's base of manufacturing and welding professionals to fill vacancies being left from retirees who performed critical work in major industries, including heavy equipment manufacturing, construction, auto production, energy, military, aerospace and more," said AWS deputy executive director Cassie R. Burrell. "This year, we are enhancing our standard Job Fair by including the Workforce Development Pavilion, which will connect employers with important industry players that can offer varying types of assistance, including financial and recruitment counseling."

The Job Fair will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, November 12 and Tuesday, November 13. The Workforce Development Pavilion will remain open all four days during regular show hours. Companies participating in the Job Fair will be looking for candidates to fill positions including; accountants, engineers, machinists, machine operators, inspectors/testers, management, pipe fitters, project managers, sales, technicians, welders, and more. Participants in the Workforce Development pavilion include; *AWS JobFind, Department of Labor, Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council, Ferris State University, FMA Certification, Jane Addams Resource Group, LeTourneau University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Ohio State University, Penn College of Technology, SME Education Foundation, Texas State Technical College, Weld-Ed National Center, and more.*

In addition to the Job Fair and Workforce Development Pavilion, the FABTECH Int'l & AWS Welding Show will also present a Leadership Summit on *Addressing the Shortage of Skilled Workers in U.S. Manufacturing*. This panel discussion, featuring key representatives from government, the local community and manufacturing, will take place at 8 a.m. on Monday, November 12.

For more information about the Job Fair and Workforce Development Pavilion, please contact Alfred Nieves at 800-443-9353 ext. 467. Career-seeking participants should dress professionally and bring a resume. All professional levels, from students just entering the workforce to industry veterans, are welcome. Additional details and free online registration for the 2007 FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show is available at www.aws.org/show, www.fmafabtech.com or www.sme.org/fabtech.



American Welding Society
www.aws.org



Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Int'l
www.fmafabtech.com



Society of Manufacturing Engineers
www.sme.org/fabtech

ABOUT THE SHOW:

The FABTECH International & AWS Welding Show is the largest event in North America dedicated to showcasing a full spectrum of metal forming, fabricating, stamping, tube & pipe, and welding equipment and technology. Cosponsored by the American Welding Society (AWS), Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Int'l (FMA) and Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and supported by industry partner the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the event is expected to bring in an estimated 25,000 attendees and 1,000 exhibitors covering 475,000 square feet of exhibit space.

ABOUT AWS:

The American Welding Society is the largest organization in the world dedicated to advancing the science, technology, and application of welding and allied processes including joining, brazing, soldering, cutting, and thermal spray. AWS provides a variety of industry services, including welding certifications, educational programs, scholarships and workforce development through our Foundation and publications. Visit the Society's Web site at www.aws.org.

ABOUT FMA:

The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association Int'l is a non-profit educational association dedicated exclusively to metal forming and fabricating professionals. FMA brings the metal forming and fabricating community together through networking sessions, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and award programs and provides the tools and resources needed by companies to improve operations. Visit www.fmanet.org for more information.

ABOUT SME:

The [Society of Manufacturing Engineers](http://www.sme.org) is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing practitioners and executives annually. The Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007, has members in more than 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of technical communities and chapters worldwide.

ABOUT NAM:

NAM is the nation's oldest and largest broad-based industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Visit the NAM Web site at www.nam.org for more information about manufacturing and the economy.

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