American Welding Society’s 2015 Virtual Welding Trailer Tour Promotes In-Demand Career Across the Country

MIAMI, Fla., June 16, 2015 – Facing a critical shortage of over 200,000 welding professionals by 2020, the American Welding Society (AWS) is taking its Careers in Welding Trailer across the country this summer to give visitors the opportunity to try their hand at welding and learn more about a career path in the industry.

The Careers in Welding Trailer is the only mobile exhibit on the road today that offers an educational experience combined with career information to educate visitors on the opportunities available in the welding industry. Fitted with five virtual welding simulators, visitors can grab a welding gun and helmet equipped with internal monitors and put their skill to the test. Similar to a video game, the virtual welder then receives a score, allowing them to compete against others on board for the highest score.

“Welding plays a big role in our daily lives – from bridges to skyscrapers, highways to pipelines - welding is all around us,” said Monica Pfarr, corporate director, workforce development, American Welding Society.
“The average age of a welder is 55 years-old and as they retire there is a growing demand for new and replacement welders. The *Careers in Welding Trailer* is a fun and interactive way to go around the country to recruit young people and give them the opportunity to explore what welding is all about.”

In addition to the welding simulators, the 53 foot, single expandable trailer has 650 square feet of exhibit space that includes a display wall featuring eleven industry segments with trivia questions, fun facts, and industry artifacts; a “Day in the Life of a Welder” exhibit with videos depicting real-life environments in which welders work; a life size welder highlighting welding as a safe profession; a social media kiosk allowing visitors to take their photo and post to Facebook or email to a friend; welding scholarship information and more.

Visitors of all ages are invited to visit the *Careers in Welding Trailer*. For more information on the trailer and the 2015 tour schedule, please visit [www.explorewelding.com](http://www.explorewelding.com).

### 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 71,000 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](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](http://www.aws.org/foundation).*  

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