American Welding Society Foundation Launches Grant Program

Miami, Fla., May 22, 2017 – The American Welding Society (AWS), the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding, and the AWS Foundation, are launching a new grant program which will offer financial assistance to qualified welding training institutions.

A total of $250,000 in funding will be available for grants in 2017 to support the new grant program. Individual schools can be awarded up to $25,000 per year to support their welding programs.

“The AWS Foundation is extremely pleased to offer this new form of funding for schools that share its goals for building the welding workforce,” said AWS Foundation Chair William Rice.
Educational institutions eligible for the grants include high schools, trade and technical schools, and community colleges. Preference will be given to organizations listed as AWS SENSE schools, and to applications that include a level of matching support. The funds may be used for classroom and lab materials, facility improvements, capital items, as well as expanding the teaching staff. The major purpose of the grants is to increase the number of students in the welding program that can be trained or to increase the number of welding students that graduate from the welding program.

Schools that are selected to receive a grant will be audited by the AWS Foundation to ensure success of the project.

"Our goal here at the American Welding Society Foundation is to ensure growth and development in the welding industry, to increase the number of welding graduates, and to facilitate job placement in the industry" said AWS Foundation Executive Director Sam Gentry. "We believe these grants will help us do that by supporting welding schools around the country."

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.