AWS Foundation Grants Aid Welding Schools

Miami, FL, June 13, 2019. The American Welding Society Foundation has awarded several educational institutions financial grants, which will help the schools meet their long-term goals for improvements to facilities and equipment. Awards issued to five schools total more than $100,000. The recipients include Alma High School, Alma, Mich. ($24,816); Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, Fall River, Mass. ($25,000); Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, Pa. ($24,167); Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Salisbury, N.C. ($25,000); and San Jacinto College Central, Pasadena, Tex. ($11,500).

The AWS Foundation is dedicated to building the welding workforce by providing grant funding to secondary and post-secondary welder training facilities that seek to enhance and improve their welding education programs. Grant funding of up to $25,000 per location is awarded for the schools to make facility improvements, invest in capital items such as welding or metalworking equipment, or purchase/upgrade computers or computer-based training systems. This year, the AWS Foundation will award up to $200,000 in grant funding to programs across the country.

Needs vary among the grant recipients, but all acknowledge that the funds will help improve the quality and functionality of their welding programs.

A spokesperson for Alma High School indicated the money awarded the school will be used for new welding power sources for eight of its training stations. The multi-process units will allow students at each station to use shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, and flux-cored arc welding.

Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School will use the funds for new equipment to teach pipe welding skills needed to address regional labor shortages.

A new state-of-the-art 100-ton ironworker will benefit Northampton Community College in its welding technology programs. The equipment will be used to increase the number of new welding graduates, and to upgrade the skills of professional welders currently employed in the region.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College welcomes the grant to enable purchase of “virtual reality” welding machines used at recruitment events and job fairs to raise awareness of, and interest in, the welding profession. The new equipment will also add to the college’s National Science Foundation grant aimed at increasing the enrollment of women in engineering and industrial technology programs.

San Jacinto College Central will apply its grant toward increasing the quantity of tools and replica weld samples for its students. The new equipment will be used for welding inspection portions of the school’s curriculum.

For more information on the AWS Foundation grant program for welding schools, please contact Monica Pfarr at mpfarr@aws.org, or phone (800) 443-9353, Ext. 461.

About AWS

The American Welding Society (AWS) is currently celebrating 100 years 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 68,000 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.”