AWS Educator Member Profile

Pamela Richardson

Pamela Richardson began welding in 1992 after being ripped off by a mechanic who overcharged her for a thermostat.

“My Uncle Walter recommended I take an auto repair class and learn about cars because, as a female, men will always try to take advantage of me,” she said.

While taking welding classes, Richardson discovered she was pregnant, so her child became her “biggest inspiration” for success.

Richardson’s passion for teaching is fueled by students’ success stories. “I find that it is most rewarding when some of my students who did not think they could attend and survive college, let alone attain a degree, actually complete these dreams and become employed in high-paying jobs,” she said.

In honor of her dedication, Richardson has been named Teacher of the Year for both the division and state levels.

AWS Member Profile

Christopher Eure

Christopher Eure has been an AWS member for 18 years. He is also a member of the B1 Committee on Methods of Inspection, and a two-time recipient of the AWS District 5 CWI of the Year Award.

Yet despite his passion for the industry today, Eure didn’t start off as an enthusiastic welder.

“I was first exposed to welding while I was in the U.S. Army. I was 19, and at the time, I didn’t like it,” he said. “It would take another decade or so and several career changes before I found my way back to welding.”

In 1990, Eure completed a welding technology course at Louisiana Technical College, which allowed him to land jobs performing SMAW, FCAW, GMAW, GTAW, and SAW. However, his life changed when an ASME-authorized inspector came to examine a nickel-overlap weld Eure had created.

“I asked him, ‘How do I get to do what you do?’ He said, ‘First thing you need to do is become an AWS CWI.’”

From that moment on, Eure pursued a career as a CWI and cross trained with his employer’s quality control department, where he learned visual, radiographic, magnetic particle, and dye penetrant testing. Although his job wouldn’t pay for his training, Eure did not let it get in his way.

“At the time, I didn’t have funds to pay for the CWI preparatory course, so I began studying for the exam on my own,” he said. “I received my CWI in 2000.”

Since then, Eure has worked for various companies in many industries, which have allowed him to hone his nondestructive examination skills.

“I learned to navigate my way through a myriad of codes including AWS, ASME, AREMA, API, and ABS,” he said.

Eure also became an ASNT Level III in magnetic particle, visual, ultrasonic, and dye penetrant testing.

Today, he works with Wood PLC as a contract submittal reviewer for the material division of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. “The most rewarding part of my current position is my enhanced knowledge of welding, material selection, and nondestructive testing methods,” he said.

According to Eure, he has worked on many meaningful projects as a CWI. He inspected 20-ft-diameter penstocks at the bottom of the Lake Murray Dam in South Carolina; worked as the lead inspector for the Medical University of South Carolina’s Center of Advanced Medicine; and helped rebuild the World Trade Center, including the Freedom Tower, the Memorial, and the Transportation Hub Oculus.