



American Welding Society

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Skilled Professions Get a Boost through American Welding Society and WorldSkills Global Partnership**

*Two international powerhouses to increase resources and advocacy for skilled professions*

**Miami, Fla., May 19, 2015** – The American Welding Society (AWS) today announced its expanding role in the development of tomorrow’s workforce with the deepening of its relationship with WorldSkills, a global hub in the promotion of skills excellence and growth. Now officially a global partner, AWS will take an active role in the activities and events of WorldSkills, such as the São Paulo, Brazil event scheduled for August 2015 that will feature activities including virtual welding, chocolate welding as well as highly-competitive mini welding competitions.

The WorldSkills announcement comes right on the heels of AWS’ highly successful role in the WELDMEX conference in Monterrey, Mexico where some 11,000 attendees gathered to network and learn of the latest advancements in metal joining and manufacturing in the fast-growing fabrication economies of Mexico, Central and South America.

According to Jeff Kamentz, AWS’ Corporate Director International Development, “There is no doubt about it, the global demand for skilled professionals, especially in the fabrication, manufacturing and metal joining industries is skyrocketing. This is a truly global trend that requires the coordination of anyone and everyone with a stake in the game and we are pleased to join forces with the leadership at WorldSkills who share our passion and

commitment towards supporting the growth of the professional skilled workforce in such great demand now and into the future.

More information about the partnership can be found online at [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org) or by calling Lorena Cora, Director of Marketing at 305-443-9353 extension 417.

#### 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 70,000 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."*