

# GSSC Conference

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Director SOS  
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Welder Workforce Development



**Welding for the Strength of America**

*The Campaign for the American Welding Society Foundation*

# History of AWS

- The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a goal to advance the science, technology and application of welding and related joining disciplines.

# About AWS

- Membership – Over 54,000 members
- Magazines – Welding Journal, Inspection Trends
- Technical Publications – Codes, Standards
- Educational Programs – Seminars, SENSE
- AWS Foundation – Fellowships, Scholarships
- Certifications – CWI, CWS, CWE
- FABTECH International & the AWS Welding Show
- Professional Program – Technical Papers

# Welding Industry

- The Welding Industry remains strong despite the recent economic downturn.
- Growing needs :
  - Energy
  - Defense
  - Manufacturing
  - Construction
  - Aerospace
  - Shipbuilding
  - Shipbuilding
  - Utilities
  - Environment
  - Repair
  - Medical Equipment

# Challenges

- Occupational demand for welders and those with a knowledge of welding is evidenced by projected average annual openings due largely to a need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation.
- Currently 500,000 welders in the US
- Average Age : Mid 50's
- 50,000 retire per year

# Welder Shortages

- Although there have been reductions in employment numbers in the manufacturing sectors, the employment figures for welders as a percentage of industry have remained stable or increased
- Shortage right now
- By the year 2010, shortage of 200,000 welders

# What is AWS Doing?

- Scholarships
- Workforce Development (SOS)
- Volunteer Mentors
- Summer Camp Programs
- School Curriculum (S.E.N.S.E)
- Student Chapters
- SkillsUSA Competition
- Guidance Counselor Symposium
- Image of Welding Awards
- Weld-Ed

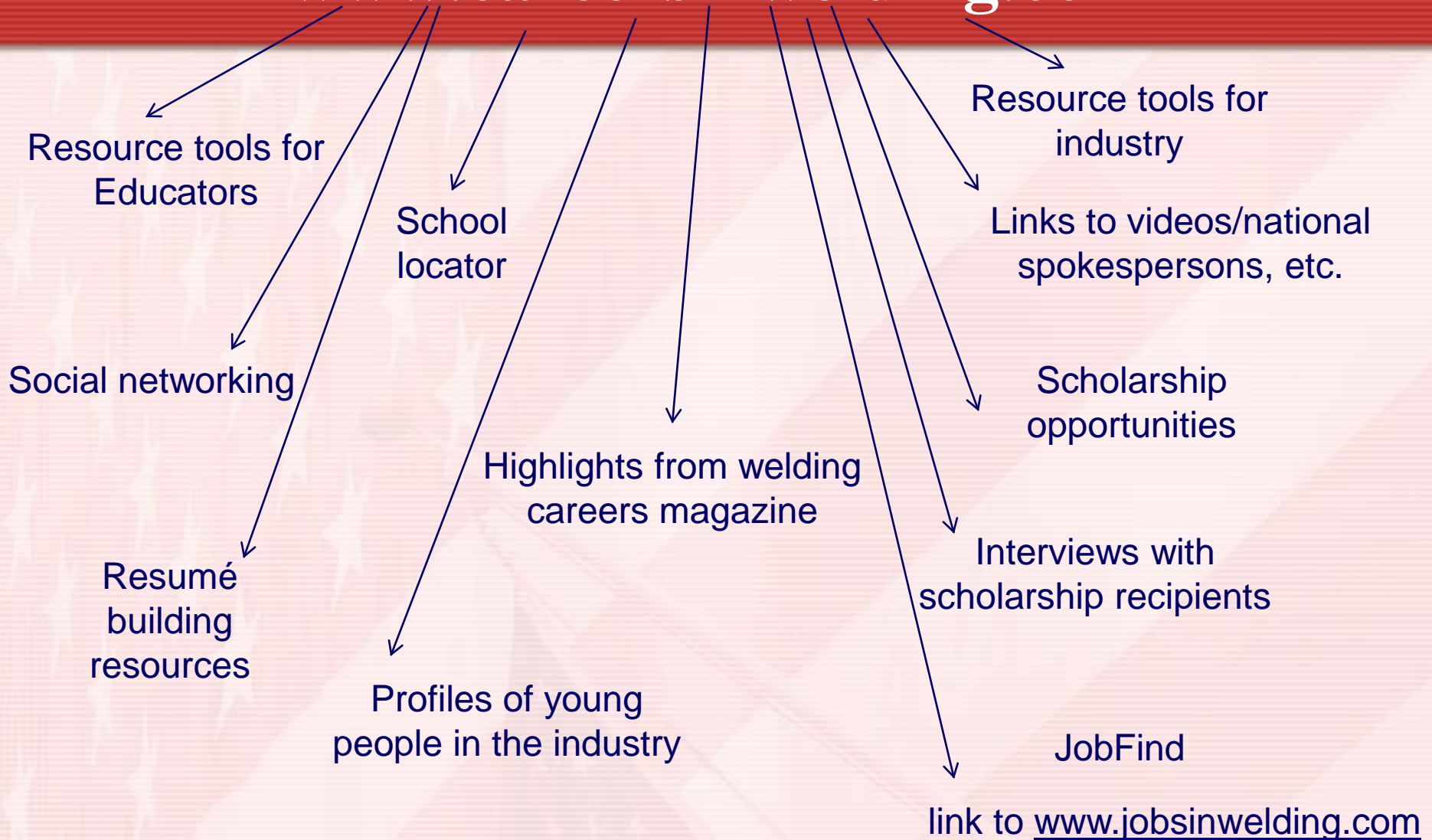
# Videos

- National Spokespeople
  - Troy Trepanier
  - Jessi Combs
  - Brian Fuller
- Introduction to Video
  - Jay Leno

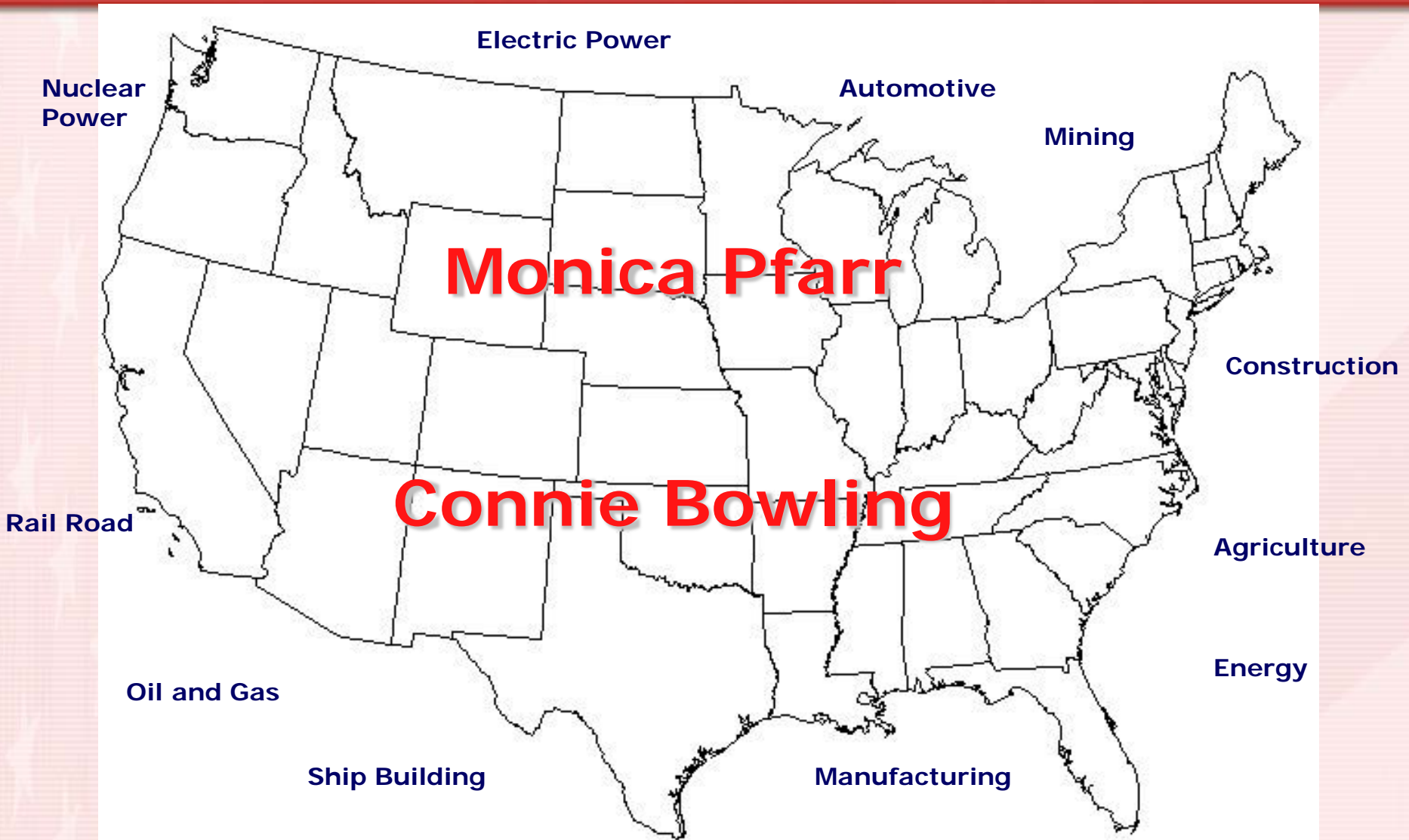


# Welding Careers Website

[www.careersinwelding.com](http://www.careersinwelding.com)



# SOLUTIONS OPPORTUNITY SQUAD



# Weld-Ed

- National Center for Welding Education and Training
- Partnership between business and industry, community and technical colleges, universities, the AWS, and government
- Funding support from the National Science Foundation

# The Weld-Ed Mission

- Weld-Ed, in collaboration with business and industry, improves the quality, quantity, and availability of welding technicians through advancement of educational curriculum and instructor professional development.
- Train new welding technicians for industry (recruitment and retention issue is key)
- Develop new, or improve existing, curricula in all areas of the materials joining industry
- Faculty and instructors are provided continuing education opportunities as well as welding related educational materials for use in classroom

# Weld-Ed and AWS

- Identifying the new and emerging technologies and methods that will be keys to the competitiveness of the welding industry
- Welding Training Centers Survey
- Summer Camps
- School Consortiums
- Recruitment and Retention Strategies
- Grants

# Questions and Comments?

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