



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

1555 South Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

Whitman Center

7777 Lewis Avenue
Temperance, MI 48182

www.monroecc.edu

Press Release

Contact:
Joe Verkennes,
Director of Marketing,
(734) 384-4207

September 7, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY TO SPEAK AT MCCC

Rice to Address AWS's 'Continued Commitment to Welding Education'

MONROE, Mich. – William A. Rice, president and chairman of the board of the American Welding Society, an organization with more than 60,000 members worldwide, will speak at Monroe County Community College on September 19 about AWS's continued commitment to welding education.

The presentation, which is sponsored by the college's Industrial Technology Division and Baker's Gas and Welding Supplies, Inc., will take place at 9 a.m. in the college's La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater. It is free and open to the public.

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, including brazing, soldering and thermal spraying.

Headquartered in Miami and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS has 22 districts with 250 sections and student chapters.

A 65-year veteran of the welding industry, Rice was born into a family of welders and learned to weld at age 7.

(more)

After 20 years of running his family's welding distributor business, Rice sold it to Airgas, the largest distributor of industrial, medical, and specialty gases and related equipment in the U.S, in 1992. He then served as president and chief operating officer of Airgas before retiring eight years later.

Rice later served as interim executive director of AWS during a period of change in the society's leadership.

A member of AWS for over 25 years, he currently serves as CEO for OKI Bering, one of the largest wholesalers of welding and safety products in the welding industry.

Among his many activities, Rice is chairman of the of Charleston (W.V.) Area Medical Center Inc., a former member of the board of trustees of the University of Charleston, and a former member of the board of directors of One Valley Bank. He has served in leadership roles in numerous educational, civic, cultural, health and human services organizations.

Rice holds a bachelor in science degree in marketing from West Virginia University.

###