

# RTEC Welcomes AWS President, Hosts Oct. 5 Meeting

YANKTON – The public was invited to attend a special “Careers in Welding” presentation by Victor Y. Matthews, the 2009 President and Chairman of the Board of the American Welding Society (AWS) as he addressed The Siouxland Section of the AWS at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), at 1200 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St. in Yankton.

“We are proud to welcome Victor Matthews to Yankton,” according to Josh Svatos, who serves as both RTEC’s general manager and as the vice president of The Siouxland Section of the AWS.

“Welding is a vital part of our regional workforce so it’s always an honor when someone with Victor’s credentials chooses to visit a local AWS chapter,” Svatos continued. “It will be a great opportunity to meet the president of the American Welding Society and to learn more about welding careers. We hope that everyone with an interest in welding attends.”

An AWS Distinguished Member, Matthews is also a 46-year veteran of The Lincoln Electric Company, one of the largest suppliers of welding products. Among the items on his agenda, is addressing the critical shortage of welders in the United States.

Matthews began his career at The Lincoln Electric Company in 1963 as a bend brake operator. He attended Lincoln’s welding school and earned all of the diplomas it had to offer. He progressed to work in the Electrode Research and Development group for 13 years, during which time he obtained an Associate degree from DeVry and a Management degree from John Carroll. He was patented in eight countries for work done in the lab. Matthews moved to the manufacturing facility as plant welding engineer where he worked for 12 years. He automated many workstations and put into production the company’s first-ever welding robot for piecework.

In 1990, Matthews joined the Service Department with responsibility for engine-driven welding machines. In 1992, he was assigned responsibility for Cleveland-manufactured consumable products worldwide. Currently, he is responsible for the entire Lincoln product line of Cleveland-made products used worldwide. Lincoln recognized him with its Man of the Year Award in 1995 and he has served on numerous committees and within the Cleveland Section of the AWS and the national organization.

The American Welding Society 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, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 50,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit with society’s website at [www.aws.org](http://www.aws.org) and click on “Pressroom.”



*Bob Olson, left, a long-time member of The Siouxland Section of the American Welding Society, and Josh Svatos, right, general manager of RTEC and vice president of the local AWS section, welcome Victor Matthews, president and chairman of the AWS, to Yankton.*