

## WESCO Strives to Provide 'Extra-Value Service' to Customers

For WESCO Gas & Welding Supply, the secret to a successful business is people — hiring the right employees and providing superior service to customers. WESCO is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

As one of the largest independent gas and welding distributorships on the central Gulf Coast, WESCO offers welding, industrial and safety supplies, as well as medical, industrial and specialty gases.

"We supply fabrication shops, shipbuilding companies — really anything to do with welding," said **Jenny McCall**, the company's president and chief operating officer. "We supply to the end user, from hobbyists to mechanics to shipbuilding to construction – you name it."

What started in 1963 as a threeemployee, family-owned shop in Prichard has grown to a business with eight locations employing 96 people. McCall's father, who started as a manufacturing representative, bought into the business and took over ownership in 1976.

Today, "extra-value service" is what sets the company apart, says McCall. WESCO counts among its employees a professional engineer and a certified welding inspector who can, when needed, certify customers or their employees.

WESCO stays involved in the community by participating in food pantry drives and the holiday drive for the Light of the Village, helping with the restoration of the flagpole at Clark Middle School, and donating materials for the Magnolia Springs Baptist Church youth paintball games and other charity events.

As WESCO looks toward the future, McCall said its greatest challenge is one facing the entire industry — maintaining a workforce.

"We do not have enough welders," she said. "The job opportunity for a welder is unbelievable. We've got to attract people to our industry."

Go to mobilechamber.com/award.asp to submit a Small Business of the Month nomination, or contact Danette Richards at 431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.