

35- year life member



David J. Rintoul

David J. Rintoul graduated with honors from Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology in 1979 with a degree in mechanical engineering technology. He received a B.S. degree in business administration from Lake Superior State University in 1983. He later earned an M.B.A. in 2006 from University of Notre Dame. Rintoul's career in the steel industry began in 1979 at Algoma Steel Corp., where he worked for 14 years. He then joined Rouge Steel Corp. as superintendent of cold mill operations from 1993 to 1995. In 1995, he was recruited by Acme Steel Co. as part of the team that managed the facility's mini-mill project. In 2001, he joined North Star BlueScope Steel as vice president of operations. In 2007, he went to work for United States Steel Corporation in various executive positions, including an international assignment as vice president European Operations and president of U. S. Steel Košice. In 2018, he was appointed chief executive officer of GrafTech International and elected to the company's board of directors. He retired from GrafTech in July 2022.



When did you first hear about AISE/ISS and how? Was there someone who introduced you to the association?

I first heard about AIST (which was the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers back then) when I was still in college. I joined as a student member in the late 1970s. I joined the Iron & Steel Society a little later in the mid-1990s.

What was your first level of involvement in AIST? How did your involvement progress over the years?

My early exposure was as a young engineer working at the local steel mill attending the annual convention and listening to papers being presented. Later I was able to assist by being on a panel at the European Steel Forum held in Italy, and later as a panelist in the AISTech 2015 Town Hall Forum in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. In addition, over the years I have had the opportunity to sit in on some training sessions as well as various committees.

How has AIST membership benefited you in your career?

As a student member, exposure to well-written papers on engineering topics assisted [in my] developing an understanding of what excellent papers looked like. Early in my working experience, the organization illustrated technical expertise on a wide range of practical engineering solutions to steelmaking challenges that existed and could be tapped to assist. The organization also presented the opportunity to develop a network of steelmakers who shared similar engineering-based interests and challenges.

Talk about your career path. How did you enter the steel industry?

I was introduced to the steel industry as I graduated from high school and won a scholarship provided by the local

steel company, Algoma Steel. This came with summer internships and upon graduation I was offered a position in the Plate and Strip Rolling division. I was fortunate to progress through various roles and organizations, including having been part of a team building a new mill and part of both integrated and mini-mill structures. The industry blessed me with many experiences, including a three-year assignment in Slovakia and in my last role taking GrafTech public as chief executive officer. I have been very fortunate to have met many interesting and intelligent people during my journey in the steel industry and have done and seen many interesting things that I would never have imagined having grown up in a small town.

If you were to recommend AIST to a new graduate just coming into the industry, what would you tell him/her?

The steel industry is full of interesting challenges and opportunities. Finding a mentor to assist in your early development is always helpful if possible. The industry is filled with good people who are not only good at what they do but are also good human beings who are usually more than willing to help or explain if asked. Don't be afraid to ask why or how something works. Use the resources through AIST to advance your knowledge and equally important to network. ♦

