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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CHOSEN FOR AIST FOUNDATION STEEL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

PITTSBURGH, 3 October 2017 — The [Association for Iron & Steel Technology Foundation](#) announced the winner of the 2017–2018 Steel Curriculum Development Grant. The winner of this year's Steel Curriculum Development Grant will receive US\$25,000 over the course of three years.

Established in 2005, the Steel Curriculum Development Grant's goal is to increase the number of students studying a steel-related curriculum in North America, and to increase the number of students electing to pursue careers in the iron and steel industry upon graduation. The grant provides selected professors the opportunity to establish their own projects as long as the steel industry's role or visibility in the professor's course curriculum and/or other programs is enhanced.

This year's recipient is:

- **Dr. Paul C. Lynch, assistant professor of industrial engineering, Penn State University Erie, The Behrend College, Erie, Pa., USA**  
Over the past few years, Penn State Behrend's hands-on approach to studying the composition, heat treatment, microstructure, mechanical properties, and processing of steels has been partially or completely removed from numerous courses due to budget costs. With the opening of Penn State Behrend's new Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center, the Steel Curriculum Development Grant will be used to restore these hands-on elements through purchasing material, supplies, and paying undergraduate students to develop and test steel labs. Through these channels, students will be encouraged to pursue careers or further their education in the steel industry.

Dr. Lynch said, "We are very appreciative of the three-year steel curriculum grant that AIST has awarded to Penn State Behrend. This grant will allow us to put more 'hands-on' steel curriculum into a variety of engineering courses and labs offered. Penn State Behrend just opened the new Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center (AMIC) equipped with a materials testing and characterization lab. The AMIC characterization lab features optical microscopy along with a new state-of-the-art scanning electron microscope."

Dr. Lynch previously received support from the AIST Foundation as an industrial engineering Ph.D. student at Pennsylvania State University when he was awarded the 2011–2012 AIST Smith Graduate Scholarship.

In addition to Dr. Lynch, four other university professors will receive continuing funding as part of their Steel Curriculum Grants:

- 2014 — Kyle G. Gipson, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., USA
- 2015 — Gerald R. Bourne, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo., USA
- 2016 — David F. Bahr, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., USA
- 2017 — Bernardo Hernandez-Morales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico, D.F., Mexico

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The AIST Foundation is a Pennsylvania-based 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation organized for charitable, education and scientific purposes to attract technology-oriented professionals to the steel industry by educating the public about the high-tech, diverse and rewarding nature of careers in steel manufacturing. Through a variety of programs, the AIST Foundation awards more than US\$750,000 annually in programs and grants to students, instructors and schools to ensure the iron and steel industry of tomorrow will have a sufficient number of qualified professionals.

[AIST](#) is a non-profit technical association of 17,500 members from 70 countries, with the mission to advance the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. The organization is recognized as a global leader in networking, education and sustainability programs for advancing iron and steel technology.

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