The 2018 Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) conference was held 4–7 November 2018 in Falls Church, Va., USA. In all, 68 young professionals registered for the leadership training, including 10 representatives from the steel industry, who were sponsored by AIST or AIME. The AIST delegates were selected from nominations submitted by members of the AIST Board of Directors and the AIST Foundation Board of Trustees. AIST has served as managing partner of the Emerging Leaders Alliance since 2011. These individuals were able to network with other engineers and science-related professionals from a variety of other ELA partner organizations, including:

The ELA conference sessions included:
- Personal Vision: Becoming an Indispensable Leader
- Making the Transition From Technical to Management
- Social Styles: Building Highly Productive Relationships That Matter
- Global and Virtual Team Leadership
- Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team
- Innovation, Creativity and Problem Solving
- Servant Leadership
- How to Present Like an Award-Winning Actor: Increase Your Presence and Influence

Chris McKelvey, AIST staff (first row, left) with the ten AIST representatives at the Emerging Leaders Alliance conference (left to right) Devin Crawford, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Structural and Rail Division; Emily Looney, AK Steel; Kip Findley, Colorado School of Mines; Alyssa Briere, Stelco; Drew Fischer, CMC Steel Texas; Neslihan Dogan, McMaster University; Devin Wilmouth, SMS group Inc.; Phil Lucas, United States Steel Corporation; Chris Carney, AK Steel; and Nick Doney; SMS group Inc.