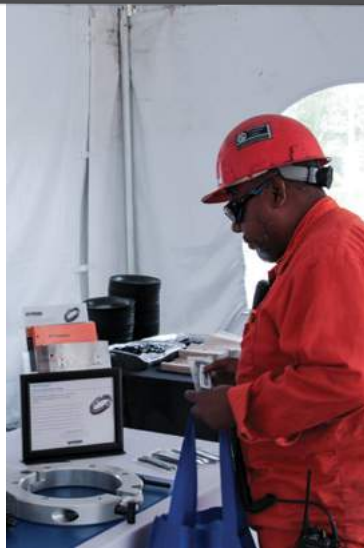


What We Did on Our Summer Vacation

The AIST Road Show visits four plants in four weeks

Summer. It's the perfect chance for a road trip to see some sights, visit old friends and make some new ones. AIST staff piled into the (proverbial) AIST Road Show Family Truckster (much more efficient now thanks to

new AHSS grades) and did just that, visiting four steel mills and meeting with 960 steel industry employees while covering 1,775 miles over the course of July and August.



We started out by visiting U. S. Steel – Mon Valley Works, Irvin Plant on 16 July in West Mifflin, Pa., USA. Our first Road Show in Pennsylvania was also the shortest commute we've ever had for a Road Show. Technically, it was the second time we've been at U. S. Steel facility in Pittsburg(h) — our third Road Show ever was at USS-POSCO in Pittsburg, Calif.

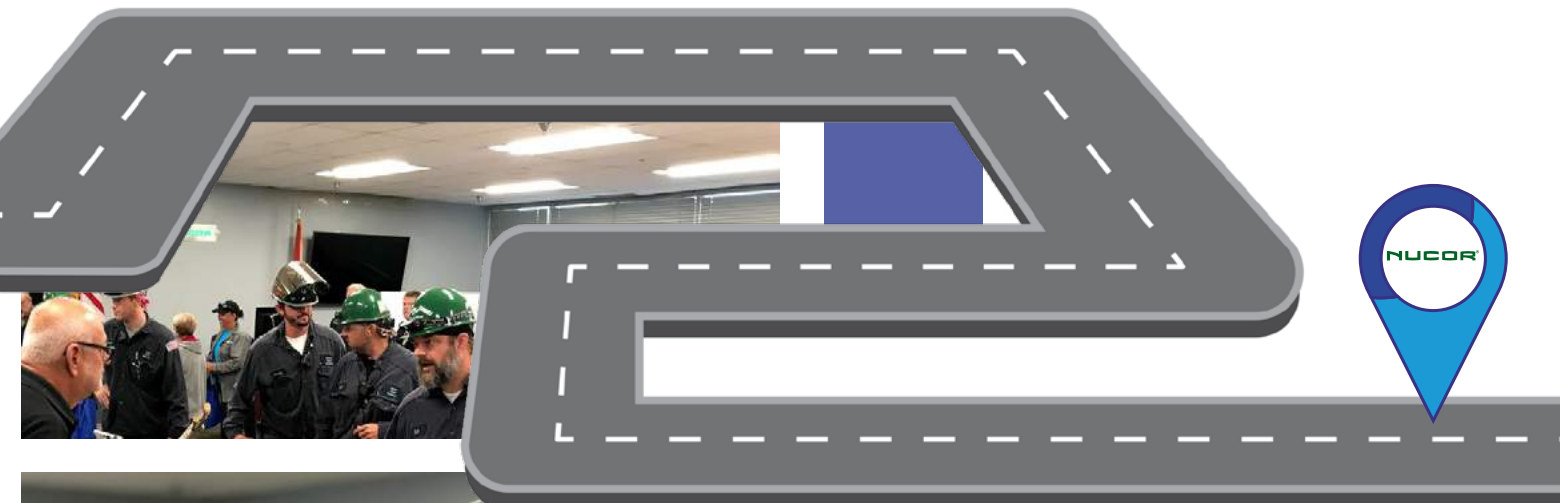
The weather and the turnout combined to make for a great day. More than 250 mill employees came out to our tent to learn about AIST, speak to our sponsors and get something to eat.

“The Road Show was very good. We had a lot of attendance from U. S. Steel people,” said Bill Bennett from Melter, one of the day's sponsors. “They asked a lot of questions about what AIST does and what the vendors can provide for their company. It was a

good investment for Melter. We ended up with a lot of contacts and opportunities.”

Leaving Pittsburgh, we gassed up and headed south to our next stop at Nucor Steel–Decatur LLC in Alabama. This was a homecoming of sorts for AIST staff engineer Anna Voss, who spent eight years working at the Decatur mill. We met with 277 Nucor teammates throughout the day, including one of our AIST Foundation's Steel Intern Scholars, Samantha Schloder, and a growing number of Young Professional (YP) members.

It is interesting — and rewarding — to hear how AIST members are taking the responsibility to mentor YPs to help them take advantage of AIST programs and conferences as they develop in their careers. Madison Milligan, caster metallurgist at Nucor Steel–Decatur LLC, said, “I got introduced to AIST through my



previous mentor, Anna Voss. She was the one who encouraged me to attend different trainings and committee meetings. As an intern, I attended The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel: 101, which was hugely helpful to my development in the steel industry.”

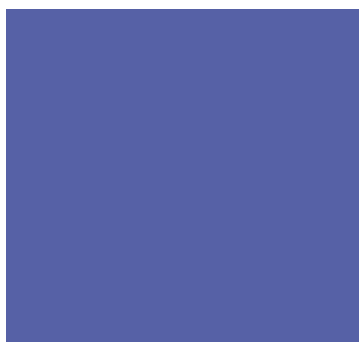
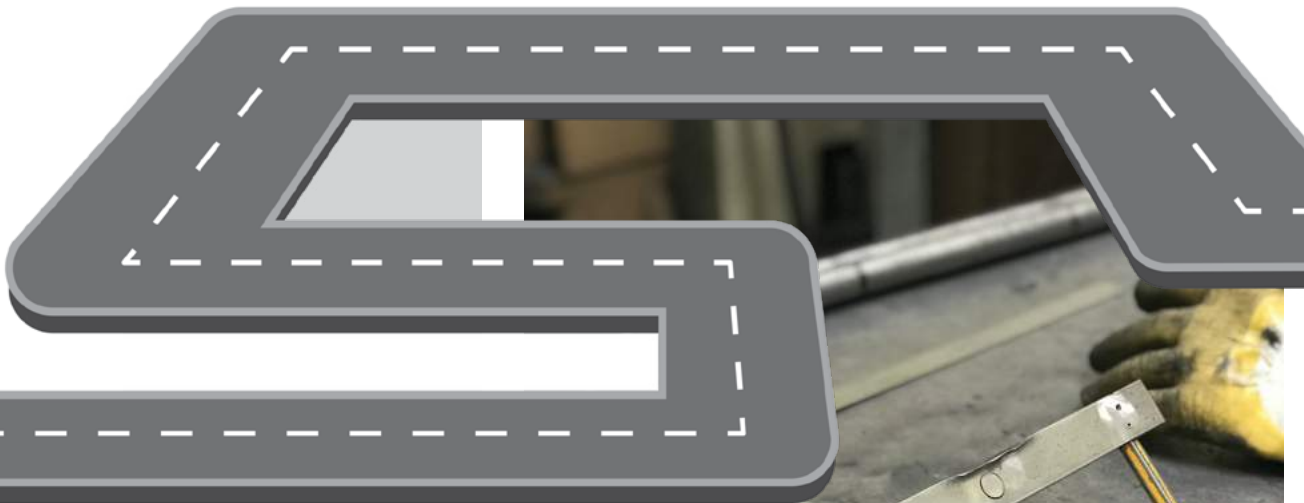
“I started my first internship at Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa,” said Garrett Finnen, a melt cast metallurgist and former Steel Intern Scholar. “My mentor there was April Pitts-Baggett. She was heavily involved with the AIST Birmingham Member Chapter. She talked to me about AIST conferences, scholarships and *Iron & Steel Technology*. She showed me the path.”

Madison Mabry, electrical engineer, said, “I got involved with AIST by attending a Technology Committee meeting through the Bring Your Own Young Professional (BYOYP) program. As a Young Professional, the networking aspect of AIST has been very helpful.”

We left hot and humid Alabama to head north to hot and humid Virginia. Our first stop in Virginia was Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) – Roanoke Bar Division. Nestled in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, SDI Roanoke is the site (when it was Roanoke Electric) of what was once the first continuous caster in North America. We talked with 147 folks, from interns to employees starting their 47th year at the mill. Matt Hallam, the chair of AIST’s Ladle & Secondary Refining Technology Committee, gave a few of us an in-depth tour. It was great to learn about the creative solutions SDI has developed to meet their challenges.

“Being a part of the technical committees has been great to network with different people from different companies,” Hallam said. “Being able to connect and talk with people who have the same interests as me has been great.”

We also met with Jordan Tower, a student from Oakland University. He’s had three internships with



SDI — two with Roanoke and one at the Flat Roll Group in Butler, Ind.

“I kind of had my mind made up a couple years ago that I wanted to work in the iron and steel industry. I’ve enjoyed it very much, and have enjoyed working with everyone at SDI,” Tower said.

From Roanoke, we drove across Virginia to Gerdau Long Steel North America Petersburg Mill. It was our first visit to a Gerdau plant. Judging from the reception, we would like to have more.

We met with a steady stream of Gerdau employees throughout the day, leading to a line out the door at lunch time. (It didn’t hurt that lunch was from local legend, Nanny’s.) All told, we met with 287 people.

AIST Road Shows couldn’t happen without the continued support of our sponsors. We are grateful to Spraying Systems Co., Yates Cylinders, Hyson, Melter, The Systems Group and Quaker Houghton for their participation during this summer’s events.

The Road Shows offer sponsors great exposure and an opportunity to talk with all levels of plant employees. Please contact sales@aist.org if you’d like to sponsor one of the upcoming December Road Shows (see below).

In addition to all the plant general managers who graciously allowed the Road Shows to happen, we’d also like to thank the people that made our visits so smooth and enjoyable: Dottie Macdonald, United States Steel Corporation; Kelly Petzold, Nucor Steel-Decatur LLC; Dolly Pringle, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Roanoke Bar Division; and Guy Colombo, Gerdau Long Steel North America Petersburg Mill.

For more information on Road Shows, please see AIST.org/roadshow or visit AIST’s YouTube channel for recaps and interviews. ♦



Upcoming AIST Road Shows

10 December 2019

Gerdau Long Steel North America
Cartersville Mill
Cartersville, Ga., USA

11 December 2019

CMC Steel Alabama
Birmingham, Ala., USA

