



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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An Ecolab Company

What first interested you about learning more about the steel industry?

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. I first became interested in the steel industry in school where the history of Pittsburgh was taught, and we learned about the process. I was fascinated with how much the industry and process have changed over the past century and how all the different processes fit together to make one of the most important materials in the world.

Did you participate in any of AIST's programs or attend AIST events as a student?

I received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. I was involved with AIST toward the end of my time at school. The first event that introduced me to AIST was a Steel Intern lunch at AIST headquarters. I have been a member ever since.

What things did you do as a student that enhanced your passion or understanding of the steel industry?

As a student, I did three internships with AK Steel, now Cleveland-Cliffs, in Butler, Pa. I spent eight months in the hot strip mill learning the process and working on steel quality improvement projects. I also spent three months on the finishing line, working on coating improvement projects. My time there was not only a valuable learning experience, but it opened my eyes to the need for innovation in the process, which is what kept me in the steel industry. The industry is continuing to evolve, and I wanted to be a part of that evolution.

Did any AIST programs assist in your career advancement?

When I relocated from Pittsburgh to Northwest Indiana for work, I started to get more involved with AIST to build

a network within the steel industry in this area. I was nominated to be the Midwest Member Chapter's Young Professional chair in 2020 and have been in that position since. I have continued to build my network through AIST, which has started opening new opportunities for myself and my company.

What advice do you have for students who are curious about pursuing something related to the steel industry?

There are so many opportunities for young engineers as the industry evolves and I highly recommend students apply for steel internships. I would also recommend attending AIST steel seminars, especially for those interested in the steel industry who are studying a discipline outside of materials science. As a chemical engineer, I had to learn the process on the job and wished I had attended seminars such as The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel: 101 to have a better understanding of the process before starting.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I will continue to be the Midwest Member Chapter's Young Professional chair through the 2021–2022 term. After that, I plan to remain on the board to continue advocating for the steel industry with young professionals.

What do you find unique and interesting about the steel industry? What do you enjoy the most about it?

The evolution of the process is extremely interesting to me. It is amazing to see how far the industry has come and how much further it is going to go over the next 10–20 years. The constant need for innovation to remain competitive is what really drives me in the industry. I enjoy the challenges that come with that innovation and being a part of such a dynamic environment. ♦



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