



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Aaron Strelbisky, project manager



What first interested you about the steel industry?

Growing up next to Hamilton, Ont., Canada, the steel industry dominated not only the skyline but also my family's dinner conversations. As the third-generation Strelbisky at Tallman Technologies Inc., I was introduced to the industry at a young age. Knowing my family's company was involved with serving the industry first piqued my interest in steel.

What is your educational background? Did you participate in any of AIST's programs or attend AIST events as a student?

My background is in business management and marketing, so I do not have the education generally associated with those in the steel industry. My focus has been on the business of steel, expanding our company's involvement in the global steel market.

In my first year at Dalhousie University, I received the AIST David H. Samson Scholarship through the Northern Member Chapter. I attended my first AISTech as a student in 2015 where I participated in the student plant tour and the Young Professionals' Reception. AISTech also played a pivotal role in my master's degree, as I used the 2016 exposition to conduct the initial research for my thesis.

What made you decide on a career in the steel industry?

As far back as I can remember, my father would visit customers and steel plants around the world. Even as a child, I knew I wanted to be a part of an industry that allowed me to travel and work with people from various cultures and backgrounds. The defining moment for me was visiting an electric arc furnace steel plant in my first summer home from school. When I saw the tremendous energy behind that furnace, I was certain this was the industry I would join.

Did AIST's programs assist with your career development?

AIST has been invaluable to my career development. It has provided numerous opportunities to network with both Young Professionals like myself, who are just starting their careers, and those who have reached the pinnacle of their respective fields. The technical knowledge I have gained through committee meetings, technical presentations at AISTech, the Modern Electric Furnace Steelmaking training seminar, and talking to industry professionals at AIST events has been vital to my growth. Much of what I have learned about the steel industry has been a direct result of my involvement in AIST programs.

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

The steel industry is an exciting, dynamic sector that encompasses positions in many fields. Attend a local Member Chapter meeting and talk to your peers. You will find there are many opportunities to pursue. If possible, take advantage of AIST's student travel grants and attend AISTech. There you will be in the beating heart of the industry and see the most advanced of steel technologies.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I plan to stay actively involved in both the Electric Steelmaking and Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Committees as well as my local Northern Member Chapter. I am very interested in supporting the growth of the Young Professional program and am honored to be nominated for the inaugural role of the Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee's Young Professional chair. ♦



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