

AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Anil Rochester, Roll Mill Process Engineer, Nucor Steel Sedalia LLC

What first interested you about the steel industry?

Growing up I was always curious about how things work. Even as a child, I would break down my toys to see the gearing and motors. I hadn't paid special attention to the materials that make up our world until I got to college. Once I got introduced to the steel industry, I was captivated. There were several different "wow factors," from the concepts of metallurgical science, to the sheer magnitude of the equipment, to the intricacies of automation and technological advancement.

Describe the coursework and degrees that you have obtained. Did you participate in any of AIST's programs or attend AIST events as a student?

I completed my M.Sc. degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University in Alabama in 2017. My research and thesis was on the effect of pre-heating and post-weld heat treatment on the mechanical and fracture integrity of rail steel repairs. Though I was not involved in any AIST programs as a student, since becoming a young professional in the steel industry, I've been heavily involved in creating opportunities for students to be involved with AIST programs and events through scholarships, internships and recruiting events.

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

During my M.Sc. degree, I spent a significant amount of time visiting industrial facilities across the country. Learning about the process of steel manufacturing ranging from scrap to high-quality finished products to end-user

applications was so fascinating. The massive size and diversity of the industry got me excited to finish school and begin my career.

Did AIST's programs assist with your career advancement?

Since joining the steel industry, I've presented papers at the Long Products Rolling Technology Training Conference and the AIST Globe-Trotters Member Chapter annual meeting. The opportunities for career advancement that I received are invaluable. There was a wealth of technical information and knowledge being shared at these events and the value of the networking and contact development was immeasurable.

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

The steel industry is an amazing field to build a career. There are countless opportunities across different roles and levels of responsibilities. Tapping into organizations such as AIST and broadening your network will go a long way in building a foundation for a successful career.

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

What I find interesting about the steel industry is that despite already being massive, it continues to develop, innovate and expand on the existing technology. There are myriad steel and steel product businesses, increasing demand for technical teammates and vast opportunity for growth. There's a spot for just about any specialty in the steel industry. ♦