What first interested you about the steel industry?
The fact that steel is the world’s most recycled material! The steel industry has great potential to be a transformative leader in our world’s paradigm shift toward a more sustainable, circular economy.

Did you participate in any of AIST’s programs or attend AIST events as a student?
I completed my applied sciences degree in chemical engineering and certificate in business at Queen’s University in Canada. Since my graduation in 2019, I have collaborated with AIST to create opportunities for Queen’s University students to attend AIST programs and events.

What things did you do as a student that enhanced your passion or understanding of the steel industry?
As a student I was a co-captain and a project manager for the Queen’s University Experimental Sustainability Team (QUEST). QUEST’s mission is to give students who are passionate about sustainability the resources and professional environment to gain relevant experience by providing hands-on design projects that generate awareness and improve the sustainability of the Queen’s community. My involvement with QUEST ignited my passion to revolutionize sustainability in the steel industry!

Did AIST’s programs assist with your career advancement?
Being involved with AIST Technology Committees continuously strengthens my understanding of the iron and steel industry. The AIST Scrap Supplements and Alternative Ironmaking 8 Seminar was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn more about the potential for emerging technologies to transform the industry. I am excited to explore these emerging technologies and develop more sustainable iron-and steelmaking processes. Furthermore, being actively involved with my local AIST Northern Member Chapter has helped me meet amazing people also working in the iron and steel industry. As a Young Professional, I am incredibly grateful for the many AIST opportunities to collaborate with others to create positive change in the iron and steel industry.

What advice do you have for students who are curious about pursuing something related to the steel industry?
Challenge yourself to be the positive change you want to see in the world! The steel industry has many exciting opportunities. You should take the leap and choose to pursue a fulfilling career in the steel industry.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?
Continuing my involvement with AIST’s Young Professional program, Direct Reduced Iron Technology Committee, Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee and the Northern Member Chapter. As the Young Professional chair of the AIST Northern Member Chapter, my desire is to inspire more young professionals to explore exciting careers in the steel industry.

What do you find unique and interesting about the steel industry? What do you enjoy the most about it?
The steel industry has a tremendous impact on our world and everyday life. Just try to imagine life without steel! As an enthusiastic catalyst for positive change, I am excited by the transformational opportunities in the steel industry.

Brittany MacKinnon, Pyrometallurgy
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