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What first interested you about the steel industry?
I wanted to pursue metallurgy and as I explored the different industries, steel caught my eye. Steel is critical to nearly all aspects of society. It is not a singular material, but a family of materials. We can modify it to perform in the frigid cold, hot and corrosive environments, and many other demanding applications. Steel is an engineering marvel. The diversity of applications and opportunities to innovate drew me in, and I am excited to see how it will continue to evolve over the course of my career.

Describe the coursework and degrees that you have obtained.
I studied metallurgical engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. They offer a variety of courses specific to ferrous metallurgy that were rigorous but set me up well for a successful career. My involvement with AIST started after getting into industry.

Have AIST programs assisted with your career?
They all have. Every program has been an opportunity to learn new things, meet new people and see more aspects of the steel industry. Most recently, I got to be an instructor at Specialty Alloy and Foundry — A Practical Training Seminar.

Teaching this course helped me develop expertise in steel alloying. This has helped me as I work with teams to develop modifications for alloys.

What has been the biggest benefit you’ve experienced being involved in AIST as a young professional?
Participating in the Technology Committees is a great way to meet people with similar interests and roles. They are open forums to ask questions, and the contacts I have made through several committees have been willing to help when I come across a problem I have not seen before. When touring plants with a Technology Committee, I find the questions from the group and the things that catch their interest to be insightful and provide a broader prospective on the process. Participating in these committees has helped me grapple with complex problems and provides a support group with different backgrounds.

Have you had any mentors that have assisted with your career development so far?
Many of my mentors have come from natural relationships, like managers and more senior colleagues, or people I admire in the industry. The key is finding people I respect and am comfortable talking to about challenges I am facing. Their impact has been immeasurable. I have consistently had mentors that encourage my natural curiosity to get out into plants and ask questions. They have opened doors, pointed me toward technical references and built up my confidence in a way I will be forever grateful for.

What advice do you have for students who are curious about pursuing something related to the steel industry?
There are a lot of ways to learn more about the steel industry and if it will be a good fit for you! Student competitions are a fun way to get hands-on experience. You can identify what interests you by touring a nearby plant or by networking at a local Member Chapter event. There are many opportunities in the steel industry for you to explore.