



# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Myrissa Maxfield, associate metallurgist, SSAB Iowa Inc.



## What first interested you to learn more about the steel industry?

I first became interested in learning more about the steel industry in my foundry class at Virginia Tech. Working with molten metal and knowing I can create my own unique alloys with different properties by understanding science really excited me. When I learned about the reputation of the steel industry as one of the oldest but still intricate and unknown fields and how much potential I could have, I was drawn toward it.

## 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 received my B.S. degree in materials science and engineering with a concentration in foundry engineering at Virginia Tech. As a student, I was a member of Material Advantage, which included AIST membership. I received the AIST Premier Scholarship, which granted me US\$20,000 for schooling and an internship in the steel industry the summer between my junior and senior years.

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

As a student, my foundry experience really enhanced my passion for of the steel industry. I would say another

opportunity that sealed the deal for me was having the knowledge of other metals from an internship in the metals industry that wasn't steel. I learned that steel really is the coolest with that experience.

## How do you see AIST programs assisting you with your career advancement?

Being a part of a Technology Committee and other groups within AIST will help me become a better asset to the steel industry and help my career.

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

I say try it out! Remember, the steel industry doesn't just need engineers and metallurgists, but also welders, electricians, programmers, salespeople, financial analysts, and many more to keep it running and making the awesome steel that will go into the next bridge, building, roller coaster or windtower.

## What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I plan to stay involved with the Electric Steelmaking Technology Committee, the Women in Steel initiative and the Young Professionals program. ♦



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