



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Nancy Armstrong, process engineer



What first interested you about the steel industry?

I was very unaware of the steel industry in Canada until after I graduated. My interest in the steel industry started when I relocated for a different job near Hamilton, Ont., where the steel industry is very prominent. I never had exposure to the steel industry until this point. When I began looking for a different job that met more of my interests, my research into the steel industry motivated me to apply to work in this dynamic field. Working in a fast-paced manufacturing environment where I can directly apply skills I gained from my degree was a huge selling point.

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 bachelor of engineering degree in chemical engineering from the University of New Brunswick and I am currently working toward a master's of applied science in materials engineering at McMaster University. As an undergraduate student, I did not know about AIST programs or events, so I did not participate in any, but I would encourage all students to take advantage of these fantastic opportunities.

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

As a student, I was able to complete several work terms in different industries where I learned that I wanted to be in a manufacturing environment moving forward in my career. Process and design classes were my favorite in

school and these have been directly applied working in ironmaking on a daily basis.

Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

AIST has had many benefits for me already — participating in technical committees, networking, learning from those experienced in the industry, and promoting Young Professional development in the industry.

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

The steel industry will surprise you! There are so many opportunities available for all backgrounds and interests including trades, engineering, finance and technology. There is a surprising amount of digitalization, new technology development and push toward Industry 4.0, which gives way to not only participating in the changing of an industry but continuous learning. Hands-on industry experience is very rewarding, so I would encourage students to give it a try if they are considering it.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I am excited to help evolve AIST's Young Professional programs and promote the involvement of the next generation of steelmakers. I have been participating in the Women in Steel initiatives and I am currently the papers chair for the Ironmaking Technology Committee, where I plan to continue my active involvement. ♦



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