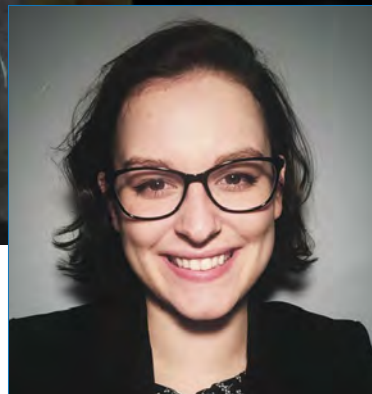




AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Nicole Sitler, Process Engineer

HATCH



What first interested you about learning more about the steel industry?

I was a materials science and engineering major at Penn State University and was not sure what area I wanted to focus on. My sophomore year I was hired for an internship at ArcelorMittal Coatesville as a quality intern. My mentor was very knowledgeable and involved me in various exciting projects which first sparked my interest in having a career in the steel industry. I continued on with a second internship at ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor, where I had another excellent mentor and was exposed to more career paths available to me in the steel industry.

Did you participate in any of AIST's programs or attend AIST events as a student?

I was part of the Penn State Material Advantage program, which is a partnership of various professional materials science- and engineering-related societies. I was able to attend the MS&T conference multiple years and attended AIST's Steel to Students Recruiting Reception while there.

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

Hands-on experience is absolutely the most exciting part of the steel industry. As a student intern, I was introduced to nearly all the processes involved in steelmaking. The first time you see the larger-than-life scale of machinery and can feel, see, and hear the energy that goes into making steel, you are awestruck. You get more used to it as you gain more experience, but there is still a lot of excitement in seeing a mill for the first time.

Did any AIST programs assist your career advancement?

I received an AIST Foundation Steel Intern Scholarship in my junior year of college. A director at Hatch was a board member of the AIST Foundation, which is actually how I was connected with Hatch.

I've been lucky that Hatch has supported my involvement in AIST programs, including Pittsburgh Member Chapter events, the Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee and Hot Rolling Technology Training. The knowledge base of AIST members is so broad and so deep, which you would likely never come across through your career otherwise. As you begin attending AIST events, everything is new, but quickly you begin to see a lot of familiar faces.

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

Abandon the preconceptions you have about the steel industry and try it for yourself. There are many opportunities available for young engineers. Wherever your interests lie in your engineering career (sales, technology development, operational improvement, project management, steel markets and more) you can do it in the steel industry. Don't be afraid to reach out to industry professionals if you have questions, whether it is at AIST events or the Young Professionals Mentorship Program.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

I will continue to be a part of the Pittsburgh Member Chapter and serve as their Young Professionals chair. I will also continue to be involved with the Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee. ♦



AIST offers a ONE-YEAR COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP TO NEW AIST MEMBERS age 30 and younger. All Young Professionals also receive a 50% discount on full conference and one-day registration for AISTech.

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