

AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Patrick LaRoy, Plant Mechanical Engineer



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

Growing up I was fortunate enough to have family involved in different aspects of steel manufacturing and during college I had the opportunity to attend AISTech 2016 in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. I landed an internship with the plant mechanical engineer for Steel Dynamics Inc. – Structural and Rail Division, which allowed me to be an integral part of the rebar mill construction, amongst other parts of the mill on several projects.

Talk about your coursework. Did you participate in any AIST programs or attend AIST events as a student?

I graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and an A.S. degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University in 2018. I had received several scholarships, including those offered by the AIST Globe-Trotters and Northeastern Ohio Member Chapters, and was able to attend some AIST events. With several manufacturing opportunities in the area I lived in, attending those events gave me the opportunity to discuss the steel manufacturing industry and the benefits it provided to my fellow students.

Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

Being a Young Professional, I've only held one job title as a plant mechanical engineer. AIST has allowed me opportunities for advancement, meeting new people and understanding their steelmaking processes and the technologies they use.

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

Explore all the opportunities AIST has to offer. From the various scholarships to the networking, AIST has a number of opportunities that will benefit your future career.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

While continuing to be part of the AIST Young Professionals, I am getting involved with the Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee, which is relevant to my current role. My goal is to get involved and eventually serve as a chair on the committee and continue to attend AISTech and other trainings provided.

What do you find unique and interesting about the steel industry? What do you enjoy the most about it?

With the continuous improvements in technology, I get to be challenged every day. I have had the opportunity to manage several large capital projects that will sustain our steelmaking process for the next 50 years. It has been fantastic learning from the older generation of steelmakers who educate us on current processes and what needs to be improved. As a supervisor, my team looks up to me regarding the execution of upcoming projects. My overall goal is to make an impact on the steel industry. ♦