



The Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board consists of 29 directors, including: 10 members of the Executive Committee, the AIST Foundation president and representatives from the Association's nine Technology Divisions, with commensurate representation from nine of the Association's Member Chapters.

Please visit [AIST.org](https://www.aist.org) to view the AIST bylaws and all governance policies.

## Executive Committee

### President

---



**Keith J. Howell**

Chief Operating Officer, ArcelorMittal North America, Schererville, Ind., USA

Keith Howell is the chief operating officer (COO) for ArcelorMittal North America. He joined ArcelorMittal in June 2016 as COO of ArcelorMittal USA. Prior to his current position, he was senior vice president, operations for AK Steel. Howell was named vice president, operations for AK Steel in 2012. He joined AK Steel in 1997 as manager, steelmaking at Middletown Works. He was named manager, aluminized in 1999 and manager, cold strip department in 2000. He advanced to general manager, operations at Ashland Works in 2001. He was

named general manager, operations at Middletown Works in 2003, and was named general manager, Butler Works in 2005. In 2009, he advanced to director, engineering and raw materials. He was named vice president, carbon steel operations in 2010 and also assumed responsibility for the Butler Works in 2011. Prior to joining AK Steel, Howell had 10 years of operating experience at U. S. Steel – Mon Valley Works, Edgar Thomson Plant. He had assignments in the quality assurance and steelmaking departments. Howell holds a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University.

### First Vice President

---



**Barry T. Schneider**

Senior Vice President, Flat Roll Steel Group, Steel Dynamics Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind., USA

Barry Schneider joined the Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) team in June 1995. He began his career with Steel Dynamics Inc. as the mechanical engineer for melting and casting during the initial construction and start-up of the Flat Roll Group's Butler facility.

Schneider subsequently worked as the plant mechanical engineer for the expansion of the Butler facility in 1998. He then spent time as a casting supervisor before accepting the hot strip mill manager position in 2000. In 2003, he shifted into processing and finishing and became the cold rolling and coating manager at Flat Roll Group Butler. In 2007, Schneider was promoted to vice president and general manager of the Engineered Bar Products Division in Pittsboro, Ind., USA. In 2014, he accepted a corporate

position as vice president — bar products, having responsibilities for the Pittsboro facility as well as the Roanoke, Va., USA, facility. In 2016, Schneider was appointed senior vice president, Flat Roll Steel Group. In his current position he is responsible for the company's two flat roll steel mills and eight flat roll coating lines, which together have approximately 8.4 million tons of annual capacity. Prior to joining SDI, Schneider held positions in mechanical maintenance in both hot rolling and casting with LTV Steel in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. He earned a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1990 and an M.S. degree in engineering management from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 2011. In 2019, Schneider earned an executive certificate in technology, operations and value chain management from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

## Second Vice President

---



**Brian K. Bishop**

Executive Vice President, Commercial, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., West Chester, Ohio, USA

Brian Bishop joined Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. in 1995 as a shift manager in the maintenance department at Middletown Works. He progressed through a number of positions before being named manager, occupational safety and health in 2008; general manager, Mansfield Works in 2008; general manager, Middletown Works in 2010; and general manager, Dearborn Works in 2014. Bishop was promoted to director, carbon steel operations in 2015, with overall

responsibility for the company's four carbon steel plants — Middletown Works, Ashland Works, Rockport Works and Dearborn Works. He was promoted to vice president, carbon steel operations in 2016. From March 2020 to May 2020, he served as vice president, steel operations, and was promoted to senior vice president, commercial in May 2020. In September 2021, he was promoted to his current position of executive vice president, commercial. He holds a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering from Michigan Technological University and an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University.

## Past President

---



**Steven J. Henderson**

Vice President, West Division, Commercial Metals Company, Mesa, Ariz., USA

Steve Henderson is vice president of the West Division of Commercial Metals Company (CMC). In his current role, he is responsible for CMC's mill, fabrication and T-post operations west of the Rocky Mountains. Henderson joined CMC as a technical assistant at CMC Steel Texas in 1994. He has since held various operations-focused leadership positions at CMC, including vice president and general manager of CMC Steel Arkansas/Southern Post and vice president and general manager of

CMC Steel Arizona, overseeing the construction and start-up of the first micro-mill. After the successful start-up, he accepted the role of vice president of the East Region, followed by the role of vice president and chief supply chain officer, focusing on strengthening and developing the company's supply chain organization. He was then appointed to his current West Division role in January 2020. Henderson holds a B.S. degree from Texas A&M University and an M.S. degree from the University of Central Texas. He has been active as a community volunteer as well as active in civic and industry associations throughout his career.

## Officer-at-Large

---



**Thomas C. Toner**

Vice President, Operations, SSAB Americas, Mobile, Ala., USA

Tom Toner is vice president, operations for SSAB Americas, a position he has held since 2017. In this role, he has responsibility for all operational activities at SSAB's North American Iowa steel plant, including safety, productivity, cost control and quality. He also holds the position of director of technical development – transformation office. After prior experience with Carpenter Technology and Caparo Steel Co., he joined IPSCO in 1998 as meltshop manager at its plant in Montpelier, Iowa, USA. In 2006, he was named superintendent primary operations, responsible for all aspects

of steel and slab production. In 2012, he was given the added responsibilities of Northern Business Unit (NBU) team leader accountable for the financial performance of the NBU production facilities consisting of the Montpelier operations and two CTL lines, one in St. Paul, Minn., USA, and another in Scarborough, Ont., Canada. He also served as general manager of the Montpelier operations from 2015 through 2017. Toner is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a B.S. degree in business administration (operations management). He is also a graduate of the Strategic Metals Management Program, Olin Graduate School of Business, Washington University in St. Louis.

## Officer-at-Large

---



**Allen C. Behr**

Executive Vice President, Nucor Corp., Charlotte, N.C., USA

Al Behr began his career in 1996 as a design engineer at Nucor Building Systems in Waterloo, Ind., USA. In 1999, he joined the start-up of Nucor Building Systems in Terrell, Texas, and then moved to Nucor Building Systems in Swansea, S.C., in 2001. During those engagements, he worked within the technical portion of the business. In 2008, Behr was promoted to general manager of Nucor Building Systems – SC. In 2011, he joined Nucor’s Vulcraft/Verco Group as general manager of

Vulcraft in Florence, S.C., and was elected a vice president of Nucor in 2012. In 2014, he was promoted to president of the Vulcraft/Verco Group based out of Nucor’s headquarters. In 2017, he joined Nucor Steel–Texas as vice president and general manager. In May 2020, he returned to Nucor’s headquarters as executive vice president of plate and structural products. A graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. degree in civil engineering, Behr is a registered Professional Engineer in several states. He also serves on the Industry Advisory Board of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Texas A&M University.

## Officer-at-Large

---



**Kevin L. Zeik**

Senior Research Fellow, Innovation and Sustainability, United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Kevin Zeik is senior research fellow, leading U. S. Steel’s initiatives in innovation and sustainability. He has been in this role since 2016. Prior to this, he was the general manager for U. S. Steel Research, leading the efforts to develop third-generation advanced high-strength steels. Zeik began his career at U. S. Steel in 1991 as a senior research engineer working on electron microscopy and surface science of steel products. In 1994, he moved into the failure analysis group, and two years later was named research manager for the failure analysis, computer modeling and welding groups. Zeik moved to the materials technology section in 1999, serving as research manager until 2002, when he advanced to technical director.

In 2004, he was named director – Process Technology Division. Zeik graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Ph.D. in metals science and engineering in 1991. His graduate work was focused on copper-niobium microcomposites for the hypersonic aerospace program, working as a researcher at the Ames Laboratory, Iowa State University. Zeik has been a member of AIST and its predecessor organization, the Iron & Steel Society (ISS), for more than 30 years. He has held the position of chair of the ISS Mechanical Working Division, and served on the Board of Directors of AIST, including the transition team from ISS to AIST. He currently serves as president of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME).

## Officer-at-Large

---



**John G. Speer**

American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor and Director, Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo., USA

John G. Speer is the American Bureau of Shipping Chaired Professor at Colorado School of Mines, and director of the Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center. He received a B.S. degree from Lehigh University in metallurgy and materials engineering, and a D.Phil. in physical metallurgy from the University of

Oxford, U.K. He was affiliated with the Homer Research Laboratories of Bethlehem Steel Corp. from 1983 to 1997, where he was involved in product research, customer and operations support, and research management. He became a professor in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at Colorado School of Mines in 1997, where he teaches metallurgy at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and participates in research activities

with the Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center. Speer also served as Mines' associate vice president for research from 2008 to 2013. He is a Distinguished Member and Fellow of AIST, member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, Fellow of ASM International, an Iron & Steel Society Professor, past chairman of the Ferrous

Metals Committee of SAE, and served as AIME president in 2017–2018. His background is in physical metallurgy and solid-state phase transformations, and steel product development, including alloy design/processing response/application and performance.

## Treasurer

---



**Mark L. Fedor**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Morgan, Alliance, Ohio, USA

Mark Fedor earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Akron. After earning his degree, he joined the team at Morgan. He added his professional engineer's license (P.E.) in 1997 and an associate's degree in electrical engineering. Fedor joined Steel Dynamics Inc. in 2001 at the Columbia City Structural and Rail greenfield site as plant mechanical engineer, involved with all aspects of construction, commissioning and reliability. In 2005, Fedor had the opportunity to purchase Morgan Engineering and return home to his roots. Now, with more than 30 years

of experience in the steel industry, he uses his expertise to help Morgan's customers solve their production pain points by adapting the latest innovations in manufacturing and automation to the harsh production environments of the steel industry. Fedor has been a member of the AIST Cranes Technology Committee and its subcommittees for the past 25 years. He is past AISTech Conference Planning Committee chair and past member of the Conference Steering Committee. Fedor serves on the board at the University of Mount Union, the Regional Trustee Board of Huntington National Bank, and local and regional economic development boards.

## Secretary

---



**Ronald E. Ashburn**

Executive Director, Association for Iron & Steel Technology, Warrendale, Pa., USA

Ronald Ashburn is the first executive director of the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST), having served in that capacity since the organization's founding in January 2004. In his role as executive director, Ashburn is responsible for oversight of business operations and strategic planning initiatives for AIST and the AIST Foundation. He formerly served as the eighth managing director for the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers from 2002 until its merger with the Iron & Steel Society, which led to the formation of AIST. Prior to joining AISE, he worked 16 years with Mannesmann Demag, a global builder of steel plants, first joining them in 1986 as a mechanical engineer in their Continuous

Casting Division. In 1996, Ashburn was appointed director of technology for steelmaking and casting, and in 1997 he became vice president — casting and hot rolling. In 1999, SMS and Mannesmann Demag merged to form SMS Demag, where he served as vice president — operations for their Steelmaking and Casting Division in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. Ashburn received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh (1987) and participated in metallurgical process training at University of British Columbia (1987) and global business management training at the University of Virginia (1998). He serves on the board of trustees for the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) and for the United Engineering Foundation (UEF), and is a former director for VisitPittsburgh.

## Directors

## AIST Foundation President

**Glenn A. Pushis**

Senior Vice President, Special Projects, Steel Dynamics Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind., USA

Glenn Pushis was appointed senior vice president, Special Projects at Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) in 2019. In his current position, Pushis is responsible for the construction and commissioning of the company's new flat roll mini-mill in Sinton, Texas, USA. In 2016,

Pushis served as senior vice president of Long Products, which included four long product steel mills that together have approximately 4.4 million tons of annual steelmaking capacity. In 2014, Pushis served as vice president of Sheet Products, overseeing the Flat Roll Division in Butler, Ind., USA, and The Techs, located in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA. Pushis oversaw mill modifications to increase the Butler mill's production capacity to 3 million tons per year and completed

the start-up of a paint line and other finishing operations at Jeffersonville, Ind., USA. Prior to managing SDI's Flat Roll Division and The Techs, Pushis served as vice president and general manager of the Engineered Bar Products Division, where he oversaw the refurbishing and start-up of the special bar quality mill at Pittsboro, Ind., USA. Prior to that, he held engineering and management positions at the Butler flat roll mill, including manager of the cold finishing mill. Pushis joined SDI in 1994, having previously worked in engineering at Nucor Corp. in Crawfordsville, Ind., USA. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University and received his M.B.A. from Indiana University in 2013. He is a past president of AIST.

## Safety and Environment Technology Division

**Kyle C. Edwards**

Capital Portfolio Manager, ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P., Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Kyle Edwards currently is the capital portfolio manager for ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P. in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. He began his career in 1995 as a process engineer for Danieli Corus (then Hoogovens Technical Services) as a project manager or environmental engineer on projects for many integrated mills in coke, iron and steel facilities around North America. He gained valuable experience in many areas of primary steel production. In 2004, he joined Dofasco's

engineering department as a senior environmental engineer. In 2013, Edwards moved to ArcelorMittal's headquarters in Luxembourg to serve as an environmental expert to manage corporate environmental risk through compliance and provide environmental technical expertise to mining and steel production facilities across the globe with a strong focus on major capital investment. Edwards holds a B.S. degree in environmental engineering from University of Guelph and an M.B.A. from McMaster University. He has participated in the AIST Environmental Technology Committee as vice chair and chair.

engineering department as a senior environmental engineer. In 2013, Edwards moved to ArcelorMittal's headquarters in Luxembourg to serve as an environmental expert to manage corporate environmental risk through compliance and provide environmental technical expertise to mining and steel production facilities across the globe with a strong focus on major capital investment. Edwards holds a B.S. degree in environmental engineering from University of Guelph and an M.B.A. from McMaster University. He has participated in the AIST Environmental Technology Committee as vice chair and chair.

## Cokemaking and Ironmaking Technology Division

**Zane T. Voss**

Partner, CIX Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

Zane Voss is a partner in the engineering consulting firm Continuous Improvement Experts Inc., and has worked in the steel industry for 14 years. He holds a master's degree in engineering management and

a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology. He resides in Pittsburgh, Pa., USA.

## Steelmaking Technology Division

---



**Lauren E. Jellison**

Melting and Casting Day Supervisor, Nucor Steel-Decatur LLC, Trinity, Ala., USA

Lauren Jellison started with Nucor Corp. in 2014. During this time she has held various positions, including melt/cast metallurgist, project engineer, and melt/cast shift supervisor at multiple Nucor facilities. Most recently

she was promoted to melting and casting day supervisor at Nucor Steel-Decatur LLC. Jellison received her B.S. degree in chemistry from Virginia Polytechnic University in 2012 and her M.S. degree in material science engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 2014.

## Refining and Casting Technology Division

---



**Ian A. Deeks**

Day Supervisor Casting, Nucor Steel-Arkansas, Blytheville, Ark., USA

Ian Deeks graduated from McMaster University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in metallurgy and materials science. He started his career at Stelco in 1981 and then joined Nucor in 2006. Throughout his 41 years in the industry, his work has focused on the basic

oxygen furnace, ladle metallurgy furnace, degassing and casting. In 2005, he received the Charles Hertzy Jr. Award for Best Paper in the Oxygen Steelmaking Technology Division and Continuous Casting Technology Division Best Paper in 2015. Deeks is a lecturer for AIST's Continuous Casting — A Practical Training Seminar and papers chair for the Continuous Casting Technology Committee.

## Rolling and Processing Technology Division

---



**Jerry R. Herrmann**

Retired, Nucor Steel-Berkeley, Huger, S.C., USA

Jerry Herrmann began his career in the U.S. Navy and served aboard the USS Halsey learning, operating and maintaining propulsion systems. He soon moved on to supporting two aircraft carriers, the USS Kitty Hawk and USS Nimitz, from an air wing stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., USA. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he became a millwright where he constructed Nucor's and the world's first compact strip production (CSP) sheet mill in Crawfordsville, Ind., USA. During his eight years at the Indiana facility, he was involved in the facility commissioning, upgrading and maintaining various segments

of the operation. In 1996, he transferred to Nucor Steel-Berkeley where he led the team during the construction and commissioning of the third-generation SMS caster. He spent the next few years training the team, upgrading the equipment and maintaining operations. In 1998, the opportunity arose to support another greenfield project — constructing the structural mill at Nucor Steel-Berkeley. In 2001, he was promoted to roll shop supervisor. He recently retired as beam mill supervisor. Herrmann has been a member of AIST for 27 years and a member of the Long Products Technology Committee (LPTC) for 18 years. He's held the positions of roundup chair, papers chair and vice chair, chair and is currently members chair of the LPTC.

## Metallurgy Technology Division

---



**Pallava Kaushik**

Manager, Steelmaking and Casting, ArcelorMittal Global R&D - East Chicago, East Chicago, Ind., USA

Pallava Kaushik is employed at ArcelorMittal Global R&D — East Chicago as group manager of Steelmaking and Casting, Process Research, and leads a team of engineers, scientists, consultants and technicians working on key projects that improve the business and operational performance of ArcelorMittal's plants in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In his

previous role, he had been working as research engineer for 14 years with a focus on inclusion engineering, clean steelmaking, and steelmaking and casting process improvement with an aim of improve product quality and performance. He has co-authored several publications in conference papers and international journals and is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards from AIST, AIME and IOM societies. Pallava holds a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and is a graduate of Indian School of Mines, India.

## Energy, Control and Digitalization Technology Division

---



**James J. Hendrickson**

Process Director Technology — Process Automation, Cleveland-Cliffs Burns Harbor, Burns Harbor, Ind., USA

James Hendrickson began his steel industry career at Bethlehem Steel in 1990 at their Burns Harbor plant as a technical assistant and advanced through several technical positions to controls engineer. In 2000, he was promoted to hot strip mill process control supervisor. After merger transitions to ISG then Mittal in 2006, Hendrickson was promoted to the role of process control manager for the Burns Harbor facility. He

assumed additional responsibility for all Flat Carbon facilities and was named process automation division manager for ArcelorMittal USA in December 2011. He was recently appointed process director technology for Cleveland-Cliffs with a primary responsibility of process automation. He first joined AISE in 1993 and currently holds the position of chair for the Digitalization Applications Technology Committee. He holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University.

## Plant Services and Reliability Technology Division

---



**Carl E. Garringer Jr.**

Plant Mechanical Engineer, Steel Dynamics Inc. - Structural and Rail Division, Columbia City, Ind., USA

Carl Garringer began his career with Steel Dynamics Inc. in 2008, starting in the ironmaking department with a variety of operation responsibilities ranging from utility positions to baghouse operation. During this time, he became a student in Purdue University's mechanical engineering technology school, graduating with his B.S. degree in 2015. The same year,

he accepted the position of plant mechanical engineer at the Butler Flat Roll Division with a focus on plant utility projects. In 2019, he transferred to the Structural and Rail Division, continuing to stay in the plant engineering group as a mechanical engineer with a focus on supervision and project management. In 2016, he joined the AIST Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee and has held several chair positions since joining.

## Material Movement and Transportation Technology Division

---



**Mark J. McGinley**

Product Manager — Steel Wheels and Components, Hall Industries Inc., Ellwood City, Pa., USA

Mark McGinley holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.B.A. from its Tepper School of Business. He began his career in strategic market planning at United States Steel Corporation in 1981 and became marketing manager for the Specialty

Steel Products Division in 1983, based at the McKees Rocks plant. When the plant closed in 1985, McGinley and two partners bought the facility and restarted the business as

McKees Rocks Forgings Inc. He became vice president — marketing and sales, and grew the business into a profitable manufacturer of forged steel wheels and industrial forgings. He was also responsible for product engineering and developed a number of wheel products. McKees Rocks Forgings was sold to Trinity Industries in 1989, and McGinley continued growing the business until 2012 when he joined Hall Industries Inc. McGinley has been an AIST member since 1985 and has been a contributing member of the Cranes Technology Committee for 37 years. He was a recipient of the 2018 AIST Distinguished Member and Fellow Award.

## Midwest Member Chapter

---



**Clifford R. Chatman**

Hot Rolling Quality Assurance Manager, Cleveland-Cliffs Burns Harbor, Burns Harbor, Ind., USA

Clifford R. Chatman graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1984 with a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering. He has worked in the steel industry for more than 32 years, holding various positions in

quality control, operations, operations technology, and process automation for the predecessor companies for Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. He has been a member of AIST since 2000 and a Midwest Member Chapter board member since 2009. He recently joined the AIST Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee.

## Northeastern Ohio Member Chapter

---



**John M. Bondy**

Lead Project Engineer, Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works LLC, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

John Bondy graduated in 1987 from Ohio University with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering. He began his career with LTV Steel in Cleveland as part of the engineering department in 1987. He worked on the implementation of capital improvement projects,

mainly in the steel-producing areas of the Cleveland plant, until 2001. From 2001 through early 2006, he worked

outside of the steel industry in various design engineering and capital project management functions. In 2006, he returned to the steel industry in the engineering department at Mittal Steel. He is currently a lead project engineer in the engineering department at Cleveland-Cliffs Cleveland Works LLC. He has been a member of the AIST Northeastern Ohio Member Chapter since 2006 and has served on its executive committee since 2008.

## Northern Member Chapter

---



**David J. Nicol**

Sales Engineer, Xtek Inc., Hamilton, Ont., Canada

Dave Nicol has more than 20 years of experience in providing technical sales support to the steel mill and mining industries. His areas of expertise include: power transmission

products — universal joints, gear couplings/spindles, large mill gearing, rolls, and material handling equipment specializing in below-the-hook equipment and industrial components such as crane and track wheels, sheaves, brake wheels and small gearing. He has been a member



of the AIST Northern Member Chapter since entering the steel industry in 2001. He served as the vice chair of the Northern Member Chapter from 2016 to 2018 and chair

from 2018 to 2020, and he continues to serve as golf and scholarship chair.

## Ohio Valley Member Chapter



**Grant A. Thomas**

Corporate Manager, Product Research, Cleveland-Cliffs Research and Innovation Center, Middletown, Ohio, USA

Initially hired by AK Steel Research, Grant Thomas earned a B.S. degree (2006) in materials science and engineering from Iowa State University, and an M.S. degree (2009) and a Ph.D. (2012) in metallurgical and materials

engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and the Advanced Steel Processing and Products Research Center. His primary research interests are physical and mechanical metallurgy as they relate to technology and product development of stainless steels, electrical steels, and carbon steels.

## Pittsburgh Member Chapter



**William K. Schlichting**

Director, Primary Process Innovation, United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

William Schlichting graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1989 and an M.B.A. from Indiana University in 2012. He began his career at the former United States Steel Corporation plant in Lorain,

Ohio, USA, as a quality engineer in the primary rolling department. He advanced through the quality department as product development engineer, claims metallurgist and then start-up engineer for the new 5-strand bloom caster for the then-U. S. Steel/Kobe Steel joint venture. He then transferred into operations, progressing from a shift manager to process coordinator to department manager of the bloom and billet casters. He then took a position as a facility manager of primary operations for Republic Technologies International. In 2004, he joined U. S. Steel – Gary Works as technology manager in the casting area. He

held positions as area manager of both the No. 1 and No. 2 casters and then division manager of steelmaking and casting operations. In 2014, he joined U. S. Steel Research and Technology Center in the steelmaking and casting department. In this role, he was on the team that transferred the ISG Sparrows Point Caster in Granite City as well as the upgrade to Gary #1 Caster project. In 2016, he was named the director of business development for primary for the SKW group. He returned to U. S. Steel in 2018 as senior consultant process health steelmaking and casting and is currently director of primary process innovation. Schlichting has been an AIST member for 29 years and has served on the executive boards of the Northeastern Ohio, Midwest and Pittsburgh Member Chapters. He is a past chair of the Continuous Casting Technology Committee, AISTech Conference Planning Committee and is a founding member of the Continuous Casting training committee.

## Southeast Member Chapter



**Becky E. Hites**

President, Steel-Insights LLC, Douglasville, Ga., USA

Becky Hites is a global steel industry professional who has served as an equity analyst, project finance and mergers and acquisitions investment banker, cost modeling expert, industry trend macro and micro consultant, expert witness, and C-level strategic planning consultant. She was on the

II All-American Research Team, Metals in 2001 and was on the team recognized by the *Wall Street Journal* for earnings accuracy for four consecutive years, 1993–1996. She started her company Steel-Insights LLC in 2012. She produces reports on the strength of the U.S. and global economies, the global steel cycle, U.S. mill profitability and utilization, and specific product market micro analysis. Hites has an economics degree from the State University of West Georgia

and an M.B.A. from Georgia State University. She has been an AIST member for 25 years, has served on the Southeast Member Chapter committee for eight years, has served on

the AISTech Conference Planning Committee several times, and belongs to three Technology Committees (Ironmaking, Direct Reduced Iron and Electric Steelmaking).

## Southwest Member Chapter



**Christopher G. Welfel**

Rolling Mill Manager, CMC Steel Texas, Seguin, Texas, USA

Christopher Welfel started his career at CMC Steel Texas in January 2000 as a maintenance mechanic. While working at CMC, he graduated from Texas State University with a B.S. degree in manufacturing technology. In 2004, as part of CMC's reliability

initiative, he was promoted to a newly created position as a

maintenance planner/scheduler. In 2007, he was promoted to reliability engineer and was given responsibility for all maintenance equipment/activities in the mill. Welfel earned his master's degree in industrial technology and business administration from Texas State University in May 2015 and was promoted to rolling mill manager in November 2018.

## Smaller Member Chapters



**Amy Beard**

Key Account Manager, Quaker Houghton, Conshohocken, Pa., USA

Amy Beard is a key account manager with Quaker Houghton. Through Quaker Houghton, she has been involved with the steel industry for two decades. Beard's career began in Indiana with a temporary job as a fluid technician at two mills — one in Terre Haute and the other in Crawfordsville.

After several years in the CMS/fluid care division at an automotive stamping plant as a site engineer focused on oil management, predictive maintenance and tribology,

she moved back to the metals division as the project engineer on the hot rolling team where she was responsible for designing and installing rolling oil application equipment and conducting product trials. From there she transitioned into manager roles with titles of key account business analyst, product manager and key account manager. Beard is an active member of the Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee and current chair of the Philadelphia Member Chapter. She holds a B.S. degree in technical/project management from DeVry University and an M.B.A. from Lehigh University.

## Non-USMCA Member Chapters



**Jose H. Noldin Jr.**

Head of CSN INOVA TECH (Technology Strategy & Decarbonization), Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional LLC, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Jose Noldin leads CSN INOVA TECH, one of the four pillars of CSN INOVA, the innovation branch of Brazilian steel, iron ore and cement producer Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional (CSN). In this capacity, he drives the

medium- and long-term technological agenda of the company via a trend radar and strategic relationship with academia. He is also responsible for the portfolio of disruptive product development as well as the strategy and execution of the decarbonization journey of all business segments of CSN toward a low-CO<sub>2</sub> future. Noldin is a mechanical engineer and holds an M.Sc. degree and a Ph.D. in

metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is an active member of societies such as Associação Brasileira de Metalurgia, Materiais e Mineração (ABM) and AIST. He holds several industry awards, including the Iron and Steel Society of the U.K.'s Thomas Medal (2017), ABM's Ironmaker of the Year (2014) and an AIST Presidential Citation (2015). He has an extensive list of publications with many best paper awards for his contributions in the fields of iron ore, ironmaking and sustainability, with greater focus in CO<sub>2</sub> abatement, new technologies, energy efficiency and raw-material-related challenges. ♦