



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Bill McCormick, Sales and Marketing



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

My first job out of college was working for a controls systems developer in the oil and gas industry. As a mechanical engineer, I never really felt “connected” to the product we were making when I’d visit an oil and gas facility. Upon entering a hot strip mill for the first time, I knew this industry was a better fit for me. Being able to see, hear and feel the energy of the product being produced was so amazing to witness, and I’ve loved being in mill environments ever since.

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 graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Saint Louis University. I was not involved in AIST at all as a student, but quickly began attending Technology Committee and Member Chapter meetings when I joined the industry. These have been incredible learning experiences thus far and I’m thrilled to continue to get more involved with AIST as the years go on.

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

One of my senior year design projects was to perform finite element analysis on a rolling mill application to optimize for thickness profile. The project was very exciting, and came full circle six years later as I began working with Global Gauge on the x-ray gauging systems that measure thickness profile for these applications.

Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

Attending AISTech and listening to industry experts is such a great way to learn about the leading edge of the industry. The Digitalization Applications Technology Committee in particular has been a great source of inspiration for understanding how the industry will change with emerging technologies.

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

Ask questions! I’ve always been pleased with how much passion people have for this industry, and seasoned experts in our industry are always willing to share their experiences and help to educate the next generation of leaders.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

The Technology Committees have really been a great experience, as the ones I’ve attended have been the perfect balance of broad subject matter related to a specialized niche within the industry. I think the committees are the best way to get exposed to the most important technical challenges faced in the various facets of the steel industry.

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

I love the physical nature of the industry. Our industry produces the physical products that serve as the backbone for all critical domestic infrastructure. I also think the industry is really beginning to embrace emerging technology in a way that hasn’t been before. I think the next several decades in the steel industry are going to be very exciting, and I’m thrilled to participate in its future. ♦



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