

# AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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

I first learned of the steel industry at a career fair when I was in college. GerdaU and Nucor were both recruiting and had pictures and videos of some of the processes that take place at their plants. I remember going to both booths and being mesmerized by the type of work that goes on there. I knew if this was an industry that I was lucky enough to get into that I would never be bored because the opportunities are endless.

## Describe the coursework and degrees that you have obtained.

I received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2019.

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

My last summer before graduating I interned at GerdaU's specialty steel mill in Fort Smith, Ark., USA, in the meltshop. Before this internship I had not had any exposure to the steel industry. That summer I worked mostly on the furnace floor and I loved every minute of it. There is something so cool about seeing scrap metal become molten metal and then turn into a solid bar. I saw that the opportunities and ways to improve the steelmaking process were endless and I was eager to help make a change.

## Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

I have only been to one AIST program, which was the continuous casting course in Birmingham, Ala., USA.

This course was extremely beneficial and I got to network with people in different levels of process at various companies across a range of experience levels. It gave us a platform to discuss common issues in the industry and brainstorm ways together to solve problems.

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

Try it out! You never know if you will like it until you get your feet wet. It is a unique and incredible industry where you learn something new every single day. Get involved in as much as you can and get as much hands-on experience as you can. Work with every single area/person/department you can so that you become as well rounded as possible.

## What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

Once I finish my management associate's program within GerdaU I plan to join an AIST Technology Committee. I also plan to continue going to the AISTech conferences and network with those I have met through AIST.

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

The steel industry is extremely unique due to the fact that we are so open to sharing information that can help solve common issues. Yes, we are all competitors; however, everyone is open to discussing potential ways to improve overall. Whether you have been in the industry 30 days or 30 years, you will learn something new every single day and be challenged every single day. ♦



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