



AIST Young Professionals



Aron Wiener

Junior Process Engineer
Hatch

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

As a materials science major throughout college, I was introduced to the steelmaking process early on in my college experience. I discovered an interest in steel through various classes and programs with the university, including being a member and president of the student organization Material Advantage, which had ties with AIST. I was able to learn more about the steel industry through various presentations and discussion with professionals in the industry, namely Nicole Altman of Hatch. Seeing photos and videos of iron- and steelmaking didn't do enough justice for me, so I was always curious to see them in person!

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 the University of Pittsburgh in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in materials science engineering, with a certificate in nuclear engineering. I took various materials-related courses, including fracture mechanics, materials selection, crystallography and more. As previously mentioned, I was the president of Material Advantage, and was able to coordinate events with industry professionals, as well as lead a student night for the American Society of Materials. As a current industry professional, I can attest that there are many benefits to attending AIST events and programs when in college, and I would highly recommend attending if possible.

Have any AIST programs assisted with your career advancement?

I was able to attend the Sheet Processing and Finishing Lines seminar in March 2025, where I learned valuable information about processing and finishing. The various professional speakers and presenters were informative and knowledgeable on their subjects, and took the time to answer questions. In this training, we were also able to tour a cold rolling facility. I have attended many AIST Pittsburgh Member Chapter meetings, where I have been able to hear from various presenters as well as network with other industry professionals. I have also been able to return to my alma mater and present to my former organization, Material Advantage, on behalf of AIST.

As a young professional, what have been the most valuable benefits of your involvement with AIST?

As mentioned above, my involvement with AIST has allowed me to attend the Sheet Processing and Finishing Lines training, as well as attend AIST Pittsburgh Member Chapter meetings. I was able to make valuable connections at many events, and learn more about the industry from more experienced professionals. I hope to get involved in Technology Committees in the future, as those will even further my technical knowledge and skills.

Have you had any mentors that have assisted with your career development so far? If so, how did you identify them as a mentor, and what impact have they made thus far?

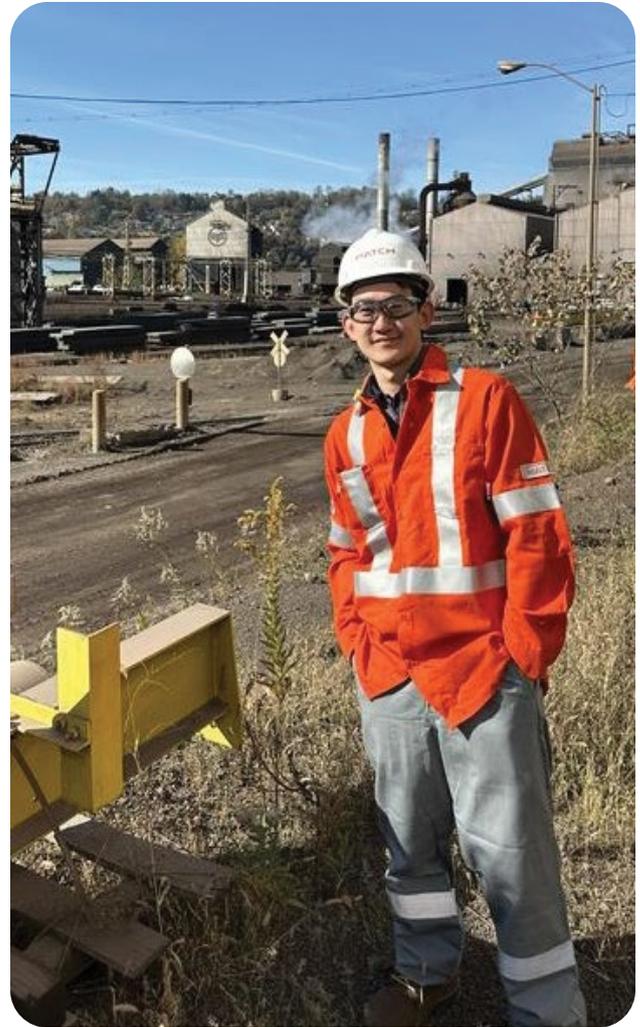
I had the privilege of having a few mentors in my early years at Hatch. Because a lot of our work is project focused, I can work with many individuals from various disciplines and areas within the company. I identify mentors as those who are willing to go out of their way to aid in my career development, whether it be organizationally or technically. Mainly, these have been my project managers/supervisors, as they have been very helpful and taken the time to teach me new skills each project. One of the most important things I have learned through my first one-and-a-half years in the industry is there is usually an answer for your question, you just need to find the right the person. In my experience, industry professionals are more than willing to guide you in the right direction and answer any question!

What advice would you give to students considering a career in the steel industry?

I would recommend getting involved as much as possible in AIST and related organizations if you are interested in the steel industry. Attending AIST events would be a huge benefit as well, as there are plenty of potential employers at these events who are willing to lead you in the right direction. Make sure to reach out to department heads for information on scholarships or events, as I found sometimes this information isn't publicized well. Keep an open mind for any opportunities! When I started my undergraduate journey, I wasn't aware of the steel industry, but I quickly became interested.

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

The steel industry is the backbone of almost all construction around the world. It feels important working on such relevant projects, and to understand the impact of my work on today's world. One thing I find fascinating is the scale of the steel industry, especially on-site. It's one



thing to see pictures of furnaces or mills, but another to see them and feel the heat in person. It takes me aback each time I see one, and it will continue to, even as I see more sites. I also enjoy traveling and meeting new clients as well from different steel producers. Each have different perspectives, practices and technical knowledge, which I find very interesting. ♦

Are you a steel professional age 35 or younger?

Join the new AIST Young Professionals Membership Committee to expand your network and connect with peers.

For more information, visit [AIST.org/membership](https://www.aist.org/membership) or contact Hilary Collins at +1.724.814.3022 or hcollins@aist.org.