



AIST Young Professionals



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

My interest in the steel industry began during my time at Purdue University Northwest. One of my professors had started his career as an electrician at United States Steel Corporation before furthering his education and becoming a professor. His insight into the industry immediately caught my attention.

I distinctly remember him describing DC slate panels and motor-generator sets during one of our classes. Those technologies not only have a fascinating history, but they also continue to operate in many mills today. Learning about the blend of legacy systems and modern innovation sparked my interest in the steel industry, and I am excited to be part of such a vital and dynamic field.

Have any AIST programs assisted with your career advancement?

AIST has played a significant role in my professional development. I have served on the board of the Midwest Member Chapter for the past three years and have attended chapter dinners and conferences for more than five years. Through AIST, I have built many valuable professional connections.

In my current role, I actively search for cutting-edge technology. AIST has helped me gain connection with the suppliers of that technology through AISTech and many of the other events AIST hosts. Through AIST I have been able to help our end customers modernize and upgrade antiquated equipment with the latest technologies available. These AIST events have also helped me develop relationships with industry leaders who have become important mentors throughout my career.

AIST has also given me opportunities to contribute directly to the industry. I helped organize the Industrial Automation and Control Fundamentals program and assisted in launching a young professional outreach initiative within the Midwest Member Chapter. I strongly encourage anyone in the industry to become involved at both the local chapter and national levels, as AIST provides countless opportunities for professional growth and continuous learning.

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

As a young professional, the most valuable benefit I have gained from AIST has been the countless opportunities for continuous learning.

Through AISTech, I have learned about cutting-edge technologies that I now apply when upgrading systems. Midwest Member Chapter meetings have provided insight into the latest advancements being implemented across the industry. Additionally, through the Industrial Automation and Control Fundamentals program, I have had the opportunity to learn about emerging developments in areas such as fiber optics from both industry professionals and academia.



Kyle Greene organized AIST Young Professional Lunch and Learns at U. S. Steel – Gary Works Midwest Plant and U. S. Steel – Gary Works in December 2025.

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?

Serving on the Midwest Member Chapter board has introduced me to several mentors who have positively impacted my career development. Through conversations at board meetings and chapter dinners, I have been able to learn from their experiences, achievements and advice.

One mentor in particular has had a major influence on my professional growth. He has consistently encouraged and supported my involvement with AIST and has always made himself available whenever I have questions regarding professional development or career decisions. What identifies him as a mentor to me is his willingness to share knowledge, provide guidance and help develop solutions to challenges. His support has played a significant role in my career and continues to do so today.

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

The steel industry is an incredibly fascinating field to join. It is fast-paced and demanding at times, but there is always something new to learn. One example I often

share is my experience working on multiple pickle line upgrade projects throughout my career. Although they were all pickle lines, each one was unique and presented different technical challenges and learning opportunities.

The industry offers a wide range of experiences that continually help you grow professionally. There is also a great sense of accomplishment that comes from completing a project and seeing your hard work successfully implemented in an operating mill.

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

What I find most unique about the steel industry is the wide variety of engineering challenges it presents. The complexity and uniqueness of those challenges make it an exciting industry for engineers.

What I enjoy most is solving problems in an environment where no two situations are exactly alike. The steel industry constantly presents new technical challenges, and with each challenge solved comes a strong sense of accomplishment. That opportunity to continuously learn, adapt and improve is what makes the industry so rewarding to me. ♦

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://aist.org/membership) or contact Hilary Collins at +1.724.814.3022 or hcollins@aist.org.