



Investing in the Future of Project Management:

The AIST Bernard J. Fedak Project Management Excellence Fund

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous donation in the amount of US\$250,000 from Bernard J. Fedak, 1996 president of the Association of Iron & Steel Engineers (AISE), recipient of the 2007 AIME McConnell Award, and 57-Year AIST Life Member.

This landmark contribution represents the largest personal donation in AIST's history and reflects Fedak's longstanding commitment to the advancement of the iron and steel industry.

In recognition of this extraordinary gift, the AIST Board of Directors will match the donation and formally establish the Bernard J. Fedak Project Management Excellence Fund. The fund will support initiatives designed to elevate and sustain the highest standards of excellence in project management throughout the steel industry, focusing on three key pillars:

Key Pillars of the Excellence Fund

1

Training Courses

- Bernard J. Fedak Project Management Training 101
- Bernard J. Fedak Project Management Training 201

2

Training Grants

- Bernard J. Fedak Project Management Training Grants

→ Promoting the growth and professional development of project management talent within the steel industry.

3

Professional Recognition

- Bernard J. Fedak Award for Excellence in Project Management

→ Recognizing exemplary individual achievement in the disciplined planning and effective delivery of steel industry projects.

Bernard Fedak told AIST's *Iron & Steel Technology*, "AIST and its predecessor AISE played a significant role in my 37-year career in the steel industry through technical exchange, professional development, networking and collaboration. My donation is intended to give back to the organization and to support project management educational opportunities for today's steel industry engineers."

"AIST provided invaluable networking and collaboration opportunities throughout my career," Fedak said. "It offered a forum to test, challenge and refine ideas related to steel processes, equipment, and project execution, and it supported career development that helped me succeed in my career spanning multiple organizations."

Fedak went on to describe the importance of project management in the steel industry: "The steel industry is capital-intensive. It is not uncommon today to see companies embark on complex projects costing billions of dollars that take years to complete. Proper scope development, safe and efficient execution, and successful commissioning of all projects will provide enormous bottom-line benefit to any enterprise."

According to AIST executive director Ron Ashburn, "Mr. Fedak's generous gift enables AIST to meaningfully invest in elevating project management skills, resources, and recognition across the steel industry, reinforcing AIST's commitment to developing people and strengthening operational excellence."

"Project management in this industry is complex, high-stakes business. Raising standards, sharing best practices, and highlighting excellence in this discipline can only help the steel industry deliver successful projects that will shape its future," Ashburn said.

AIST extends its deepest appreciation to Mr. Bernard J. Fedak for his exceptional generosity and enduring dedication to the steel industry. ♦

Bernard J. Fedak had a 37-year career in the steel industry with J & L, LTV and lastly United States Steel Corporation. In 2005, he had his "first retirement" when he left U. S. Steel as managing director of engineering. He then took a position providing senior-level project consulting for Alcoa on their US\$20 billion worldwide facility expansion program. His final employment was serving as project executive and vice president of operations for Kvaerner Construction on a US\$2 billion, 600 MW coal-fired power plant in West Virginia.

Fedak joined the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (a predecessor of AIST) in 1968 and remains an AIST Life Member. He chaired the Pittsburgh chapter in 1986–1987, served on the board from 1991 to 1997, and was president of AISE in 1996. From 1997 to 2001, he served on the executive board of the Construction Industry Institute (CII). His contributions to project management and industry collaboration have been recognized by multiple honors, including CII's Project Practice Implementer of the Year in 2002 and the CII Richard L. Tucker Leadership and Service Award in 2010.

A longtime supporter of the University of Pittsburgh, Fedak was a member of the Mechanical Engineering Visiting Committee for more than 30 years and chaired the committee from 1997 to 2001. He received the Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1995.

Fedak received additional recognitions including the AIME Robert Earl McConnell Award for promoting excellence in project management in 2007 and the Metcalf Lifetime Distinguished Service Award from the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) in 2012, where he served as president in 1996–1997.

Fedak and his wife Marian reside in Pittsburgh. They have two sons, John and Todd.