

Working for Your Future to Build a Sustainable Steel Industry



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It is hard for me to believe, but I just started my 30th year in the industrial world. I started out at a very young age and for many years it was hard to make the contacts I needed starting out. In 2006, I moved over to a new company where I specialized in the OEM metals market and I joined AIST.

My first event was the Pittsburgh Member Chapter holiday party at the Omni William Penn ballroom. The event had over 600 people, and was quite intimidating for a newcomer, but it's where I learned about events through AIST's Technology Committees. Not long after that, a colleague of mine, Jon Roman, urged me to go to meetings for the Cold Sheet Rolling Technology Committee (CSRTC) and the Hot Sheet Rolling Technology Committee. I joined both committees and attended a few meetings.

At these meetings, a few select people, Amy Beard, Dave Hamblin and Terry Boyd, introduced me to others as well as the industry. This exposed me to the networking power that exists in the steel industry.

Later I was also included in the Sensors Subcommittee (SSC), where I served as chair several times, meeting and working with vendors. Being a small subcommittee, I realized that we could not survive on our own, but that we needed to become a resource as the technical backbone to other committees.

In 2017, as my career further defined itself by moving to another OEM, I had to focus in on a committee to become a more active member. I chose the CSRTC, the Maintenance & Reliability Technology Committee and the SSC, as this had become the focus within my job. As a member of the CSRTC, I became active as a papers chair, co-chair to the education chair, education chair, vice chair and eventually chair. Where I was once the lost young new member, I am now the gray-haired mentor for the new members, hoping that they do not feel lost as I once did.

In 2024, I was nominated as the conference planning committee chair for AISTech 2025. This was the first time I had to manage full conference planning, which is much more complex than my previous roles. The conference's size and logistics have given me a new respect for what the AIST staff goes through to ensure its success. It was also a great opportunity to leverage my network and create a successful experience for the attendees.

In all of these positions, I met vendors and producers alike, building relationships professionally and personally. At every AISTech, Shannon Clark and I always make time for fun and ensure to include new members. I could fill this magazine with names and stories of personal and professional success from the relationships forged in these networking events, which are paramount to my success and important to me personally.

Unfortunately, like everything else, time carries on, and it is with a heavy heart to say that of all these friends I've met through the years, the first one has passed away: Christopher Burnett. He will be missed in the industry and to me personally as a friend. ♦

Interested in joining one of AIST's 29 Technology Committees?

Contact Anna Voss at +1.724.814.3097, avoss@aist.org or visit [AIST.org](https://www.aist.org).