

# AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Andrea Herrmann, Bloom Yard Crane Operator, Nucor Steel–Berkeley

## What first interested you to learn more about the steel industry?

My upbringing has undoubtedly played a vital role in becoming interested in the steel industry. I am a Nucor kid; my dad recently retired from Nucor after 30+ years of service. Growing up, I'd hear stories about the mill from him, which sparked my interest. Once I graduated high school, I joined the military, where I was a damage controlman in the engineering department. That solidified my interest and desire to start my civilian career in the steel industry with the welding and basic engineering skills I obtained.

## Do you find military training helpful in your steel industry career?

Absolutely. The military taught me discipline, critical thinking and the importance of working as a team. Here at Nucor, we place a heavy focus on relying on our teammates to get our jobs done efficiently, safely and professionally. The military is full of different people from different backgrounds. Being exposed to that allowed me to learn how to work well with others. I also appreciate the discipline I was taught because it's something that I utilize on a daily basis with prioritizing tasks, my time management and reaching goals.

## Are there any similarities in the environments within a steel mill and within the military?

I think that the biggest similarity within a steel mill and the military is the team mentality. Everybody has different strengths and weaknesses. I am fortunate to work alongside some of the most resourceful and brilliant teammates that teach me something new every day. The people you work with make or break your operation; that goes for the

military and for the steel industry. I encourage everyone to soak up as much knowledge from their peers as possible.

## What do you think is the most important thing a young person can do when starting in a new career?

The most important thing a young person can do when starting a new career would be to get as much exposure as possible. Reading about the steel industry or watching videos crumbles in comparison to seeing it in real life. I would recommend reaching out to steel mill workers and requesting tours, asking questions and getting firsthand testimonials on their day-to-day lives in the mill.

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

I'd like to continue my involvement in the Long Products Technology Committee as well as the Young Professionals committees by attending the roundtables, seminars and going to AISTech. The amount of knowledge, technology and experience at those events is unparalleled.

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

Even though I've been in the steel industry for about five years now, the art of making steel has not lost its shine to me one bit. The magnitude of watching the charge bucket drop into the furnace, the way we can take a billet and turn it into a finished beam or channel, and the technology that goes into it all fascinates me. The steelmaking process has come such a long way, and I look forward to seeing how it adapts and changes over the course of my career. ♦



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