

Grant Recipient Report

Kent D. Peaslee Junior Faculty Award

Monserrat Sofía López Cornejo, Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia

This project aims to generate interaction between academia and steel companies from North America; introduce students to the steel industry; develop student's soft skills; and help students get access to professional opportunities in the steel industry.

The activities included in this report aim to connect academia with North American companies in the steel industry. In September 2023, Steel Dynamics Inc. visited Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia to show students what a metallurgist's daily work involves in their Sinton, Texas, USA, plant.

They also helped students with their resumes and practiced job interviews for internships. In November 2023, students visited Nucor-JFE Steel Mexico (NJSM) in Silao, Guanajuato. They saw how NJSM operates and learned about job opportunities through resume reviews and mock interviews. Financial support allowed 80 students to visit NJSM, Fundidora Morelia, and DeAcero Celaya facilities, where they witnessed the steelmaking process and learned about job opportunities. Other events included job fairs, workshops to improve skills like writing resumes and performing interviews, and joining science fairs to teach the importance of steel in our society.

In March 2024, in coordination with the Material Advantage Student Chapter, a career fair was hosted at the university. Around 500 high school students attended and participated in activities such as building crystal structures and a petrography workshop, as well as informative talks about materials engineering career. We had the chance to share information about the AIST Foundation.

In June 2024, we participated in a local elementary school science fair offered for 400 students ranging from 8 to 12 years old. With the help of the Material Advantage Student Chapter, we showed the wonders of



the minerals, the rock cycle, and the relationship between the processing and the properties of metals.

The Seventh Iron and Steel Colloquium (COHIAC) was held on 17–18 April 2024 at the Heber Soto Fierro Auditorium of the Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia, with the aim of providing new knowledge and opportunities for students of different careers (materials engineering, mechatronics and mechanics mainly).

This year, more than 300 students from Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia, Instituto Tecnológico de Querétaro and Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Purúandiro participated in the event. As speakers we had representatives from: Ternium Mexico, Nucor-JFE Steel Mexico, AMI Automation, Global Thermal Solutions, General Motors, RHI Magnesita and Aluminum Dynamics Mexico. To complete the event, I organized a recruitment fair with Ternium and Nucor-JFE Steel Mexico representatives.