



Paul Lynch Pennsylvania State University – Behrend

KENT D. PEASLEE JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD AND STEEL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The funds awarded to Pennsylvania State University – Behrend to benefit the students in the Materials and Manufacturing Group through opportunities such as plant tours, a Lunch and Learn series, research activities, and recruiting events.

The Materials and Manufacturing Group (MMG) at Penn State Behrend hosted seven General Body meetings during the 2018–2019 school year. The meetings provide updates on upcoming manufacturing scholarship opportunities; internship, co-op and full-time job announcements; and announcements of local AIST Member Chapter dinner meetings, manufacturing tours and career fairs. The meetings had an average attendance of around 40 students.

During the summer, Dr. Lynch routinely traveled to companies to visit MMG students working as interns, co-ops and in full-time positions. This helped to foster relationships with the students, reinforce their interest in manufacturing and allow Dr. Lynch to build connections with company leaders.

MMG went on four plant tours during the year: Ellwood National Steel, Urick Ductile Solutions, Eriez Manufacturing and The Electric Materials Co.

An important part of making connections with steel companies and suppliers is attending technical conferences and meetings. The maximum amount that can be spent

on faculty professional development is generally limited to US\$2,000 per year for any faculty member in the School of Engineering at Penn State Behrend. The Kent D. Peaslee Junior Faculty Award allowed for the attendance at a number of technical conferences during the school year. This is necessary for not only presenting research and expanding knowledge but also for networking and making connections with manufacturing companies and suppliers. It is also an effective tool for growing student interest in manufacturing and helping students make connections to continue to expand MMG student internship and co-op opportunities.

In addition, the MMG is focusing its research efforts on properties and processing of advanced high-strength steels. Ten students participated in research activities during the 2018–2019 year. Curriculum is being developed for properties/processing/microstructure and manufacturing processes. The fall and spring semesters were used to pilot labs in the IE 311 (Manufacturing Processes) course. The labs are to be expanded to be sustainable in industrial engineering, mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering technology.