

The Many Faces of AISC

BY TODD ALWOOD

AISC regional engineers: Who we are and what we do.

DID YOU KNOW THAT AISC has eight regional engineers who cover the entire country? Do you know what a regional engineer is or does, for that matter?

Eight regional engineers (REs) means eight different definitions of the job title (nine, if you include AISC's director of technical marketing, Tabitha Stine, who manages the REs), but all of them boil down to one common theme: increasing the use and market of structural steel by making it the material of choice. How we go about doing this differs by person and region, and that is what the eight of us will be sharing with you in this new column.

Each month, we'll take turns offering you a view into our day-to-day work—from our travels throughout our regions to issues affecting our local membership. Not only will this column give you a glimpse of our efforts in promoting structural steel, it will also give readers in our respective regions a chance to get to know us a little better.

Since I'm up first, here's a little background information on myself and how I came to be at AISC. I grew up on a small farm in central Illinois. Even my high school was named after farming—Farmington High School—and our mascot was a farmer! I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (more cornfields) for both my undergrad and graduate degrees—undergrad in architecture and graduate in structural engineering. I spent my senior year studying abroad in Versailles, France (10 miles outside Paris and near very little corn).

After college, I worked at PSA in Peoria, Ill. for six months before realizing that big-city life was a better fit for this small-town boy. I worked at Teng Associates in Chicago for three years on projects across the country and had the opportunity to work with Shankar Nair. I joined AISC more than six years ago by way of meeting a former AISC vice president, Bobbi Marstellar, at a friend's party. I was involved with the Steel Solutions Center for four years and have been an RE for the past two years. My region includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.



One of the ways I try to accomplish our goal of promoting steel is to be as active as possible in several regional associations, which range from fabricators to contractors to architectural groups. One fabricator group I'm involved with is the Ohio Steel Association, which hosts quarterly meetings to educate their membership on current issues and also acts as a forum for updates from AISC and industry suppliers. They also host periodic breakfast meetings to reach out to design professionals, and offer several scholarships to students in Ohio. I act as a director in this association, which allows me to work with the board in developing education topics for both members and the design professionals they are trying to reach. I also have the opportunity to continually remind the group of the resources AISC has at its disposal, such as the Steel Solutions Center and Steel Talks (www.aisc.org/seminars). Other fabricator groups that I am actively involved with are the Bi-State Fabricators Association, Central Fabricators Association, and Indiana Fabricators Association. (You can find a complete list of associations in your area by visiting www.aisc.org and clicking "Find a Company or Person.")

In the coming months, if not by the time you're reading this copy of MSC, each RE will have his or her own personalized web site (linked from www.aisc.org). Mine will feature links for the above associations (along with other engineering, architectural, and contracting associations), plus upcoming trips, presentations, conferences, and a blog—and maybe even my Facebook link!

I look forward to giving MSC readers a better understanding of our multifaceted position here at AISC, as well as the variety of groups, individuals, firms, projects, etc. we are reaching out to on a daily basis. As always, please feel free to reach out to your RE!

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