



## Recharge for what's next at FLS

Foundry Leadership Summit will explore profound changes in industry, economics and politics

Leadership in today's metalcasting marketplace requires agility, foresight, and a talent for fostering the right relationships. That's why the annual Foundry Leadership Summit is among the most popular events for industry executives and rising leaders.

Following a one-year hiatus, the summit returns to Scottsdale, Arizona, Sept. 12-14. This year's event promises to be especially valuable as metalcasters look to tackle challenges and embrace opportunities associated with new policies coming out of Washington, talent development and workforce issues, a complex economic landscape, and more.

The summit's program is structured



**Karl Mecklenburg**



The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona, plays host to this year's Foundry Leadership Summit. The event combines business presentations with networking events.

to combine business intelligence with the chance to relax and recharge.

On the strictly-business side of things are timely presentations including "Anticipatory Leadership: Turning Disruption and Change into Opportunity and Advantage" (Daniel Burrus, tech futurist), "Optimal Strategies for Attracting and Developing Next-Generation Talent" (Buddy Hobart, Army War College

instructor), "Today's Political & Economic Landscape" (Thomas Landstreet, N3L Capital), and a panel discussion, "Safety at the Foundry: The CEO's Perspective." Six-time NFL Pro-Bowler Karl Mecklenburg will even be on-hand to deliver a motivational keynote on his keys to success.

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## Protecting workforces: AFS to host slate of safety-focused events

It doesn't matter what you pour, which industries you serve, or what process you use – nothing is more important to

metalcasters than maintaining a safe work environment.

To help foundries in their efforts to op-

timize the safety of their workforces, AFS is offering a series of educational events in the coming months focused on metalcasting safety.

Headlining AFS's safety events is the 33rd Environmental, Health and Safety Confer-

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# Back to the basics

Eight years into his music career, rock singer-songwriter Todd Rundgren recorded a double album called *Back to the Bars*. The concept was rather simple. Having experienced significant success early in his career, Rundgren had started playing larger concert venues such as sports arenas. There were bigger crowds, fancy light shows and pyrotechnics, but Rundgren found that he missed the intimacy of playing small clubs. Hence, he booked a tour of week-long stays at smaller venues like The Bottom Line in New York, the Agora Ballroom in Cleveland, and The Roxy in Los Angeles. From those shows came the double-live album. It was called *Back to the Bars*, and reflected a return to the basics.

The analogy is not perfect, but in many respects, the pandemic forced professional societies such as the American Foundry Society to go back to the basics. Meeting in person for trade shows, technical and management conferences, courses, committee meetings and plant tours had become such an integral part of the membership experience that foregoing them initially seemed next to impossible.

Nimbleness, at associations as well as at private businesses, is one of the most important qualities. When

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it became clear that the pandemic was going to last more than just a couple of weeks, AFS quickly pivoted to delivering even more of the benefits of membership virtually. AFS already was offering 110 modules of Foundry E-Learning, the Casting Connection online community, the online Casting Source Directory, and a world-class website. But now more of the membership experience would have to be delivered in a new way. Ironically, while this involved increased use of technology, it also represented a return to basics.

At the AFS Institute, for example, the pandemic largely forced our hand to convert our in-person courses to live training by Zoom. Our instructors re-examined the curriculum, ascertained how to present it virtually, and then mastered the Zoom technology.

The result? Year-over-year, the number of students trained rose by an astounding 87 percent. Moreover, the course evaluations found well over 90 percent of students giving

the new format highly stellar marks. As things open up again, and in-person training returns, the Institute plans to continue to offer courses virtually for the long-term. As it turned out, the “basics” of high-quality live metalcasting instruction can be delivered in a variety of formats.

Similarly, AFS presented several conferences and the 2021 Metalcasting Congress as virtual events. By emphasizing the basics – the exchange of information, sharing of research results, Q&A sessions, suppliers exhibiting products that foundries need – the Society replicated as much of the membership experience as possible. The staff and volunteers did a tremendous job of mastering the virtual technologies to deliver valuable experiences for hundreds of members.

To be certain, nothing can completely replace the experience of spontaneous interaction and business networking. There is no substitute for a firm handshake, eye-to-eye contact, and a moment of genuine personal connection.

This autumn, we are excited to phase back into live events with the Southeast Regional in Alabama, followed by the Foundry Leadership Summit, Copper Workshop and Cupola Workshop in September; and the EHS Conference in October. We look forward to seeing you at an AFS event in the coming months! Visit [www.AFSinc.org/events](http://www.AFSinc.org/events) to view the full array of member involvement opportunities.



## Quartet of leaders to be honored at Summit

Four much-respected metalcasting industry leaders will be honored at the Foundry Leadership Summit in September in Arizona.

**Denny Dotson**, former CEO of Dotson Iron Castings and a past president of AFS, will receive the Peter L. Simpson Gold Medal. The honor is presented to accomplished leaders for "outstanding contributions in promoting public esteem or service which reflects credit on the metalcasting industry."



**Denny Dotson**

Dotson is the 36th individual to receive the award, dating back to the initial honoree, Howard F. Taylor of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1946. In recent years, Dotson has devoted tremendous amounts of time to representing AFS and North America on the Executive Committee of the World Foundry Organization.

**Kathy Hayrynen** will receive the John H. Whiting Gold Medal. Hayrynen, who is vice president of R&D at corporate-member company Applied Process, Inc., will

be the first person to receive this award since the late George Goodrich in 2008. The award reflects outstanding technical, engineering or managerial contributions to the ferrous sector." Hayrynen is a past chair of the Technical Council and currently serves on the AFS Research Board. She has served on many other committees at AFS and other technical societies.



**Kathy Hayrynen**

**Ted Schorn**, vice president of Enkei America, will receive the Thomas W. Pangborn Gold Medal. Schorn will be the 28th recipient of the honor since its inception in 1956. Schorn, who is an AFS Institute instructor and past member of the Board of Directors, is also recognized for his steadfast commitment to safety in the foundry industry.



**Ted Schorn**

The 2021 winner of the William J. Grede Award is **Greg Simmons**. The award is presented for major accomplishments in management, marketing or education which have resulted in the expanded use of castings. Simmons is recognized for his willingness to share best practices with other foundries; his past service on the AFS Board of Directors; and his leadership at Charlotte Pipe & Foundry, which is building a new greenfield foundry in North Carolina.



**Greg Simmons**

Lists of all past winners of AFS international awards dating back to the 1920s can be found at [AFSinc.org/history](https://www.afsinc.org/history).

AFS members are invited to attend the awards presentation by registering for the Foundry Leadership Summit at [AFSinc.org/conferences](https://www.afsinc.org/conferences). The awards will be presented at the Monday evening banquet by the past and current chair of the Board of Awards – Chris Norch of Denison Industries and Bruce Dienst of Simpson Technologies.

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The summit also includes energizing and entertaining networking activities, including a golf tournament at the host hotel's five-star course, the Westin Kierland Golf Club. The annual tournament is an attendee favorite.

"We play a four-person scramble format. The golf outing is all about getting to know the other attendees and having fun," said AFS Board member Mike Didion (Didion International), who chairs the tournament. "We set up the teams based on their handicap to make it fair for everyone, as we have prizes. It's an excellent opportunity to make some new friends."

Other activities at the

### FOUNDRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Sept. 12-14, 2021  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
[Register: AFSinc.org/conferences](https://www.afsinc.org/conferences)

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa include horseback riding, sporting clays, and a water park. The resort is about 25 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Registration links, agendas, speaker profiles and more are available at [www.afsinc.org/conferences/2021-foundry-leadership-summit](https://www.afsinc.org/conferences/2021-foundry-leadership-summit).

## More AFS Conferences Coming Soon

### 2021 Casting Copper Alloys Workshop | Schaumburg, IL | Sept. 14-15

This workshop will provide details on commonly poured copper alloys and metallurgy, with emphasis on best practices for melt cleanliness, pouring, and casting process control.

### 2021 Practical Cupola Workshop | Rockford, IL | Sept. 28-29

Learn about a wide variety of cupola topics, including fundamental cupola operation and design, troubleshooting, operational control, refractories, and cupola safety.

### 2021 Advanced Air Seminar | Birmingham, AL | Oct. 3-4

Strengthen your understanding of air regulations at this hands-on seminar, designed with knowledgeable professionals in mind.

### 2021 EHS Conference | Birmingham, AL | Oct. 5-7

Attendees will share case studies of successful EHS projects, hear about cutting-edge issues from EHS and regulatory experts, and meet with vendors of equipment and services.

*Find schedules, speakers, hotel information and registration at [AFSinc.org/conferences](https://www.afsinc.org/conferences).*

# CastExpo 2022 exhibit sales now open

Showcase event for North American metalcasting industry returns to Columbus in April

It's the biggest metalcasting trade show in North America -- and it's returning live and in person to Columbus, Ohio, in April 2022.

All foundry industry suppliers and North American metalcasters will want to reserve booth space at this long-awaited event, hosted in the heart of the continent's largest metalcasting hub. Exhibit sales for CastExpo 2022 go live the week of Aug. 23.

CastExpo shapes the future of foundries, bringing together a worldwide community of professionals who aim to grow their businesses and their careers. Recent shows have attracted attendees with a variety of job titles, ranging from owners and executives to purchasing agents, engineers, and manufacturing supervisors.

For exhibitors, CastExpo is the best way to meet face-to-face with prospective and existing clients, gather vital business information, and make connections with decision-makers across the entire metalcasting supply chain. For attendees, CastExpo is known for interactive exhibits from leading companies, plus presentations from industry experts covering all major alloys, processes, and related foundry topics.

North American metalcasters have a



**The Greater Columbus Convention Center will host CastExpo 2022. Ohio is North America's largest metalcasting hub.**

unique exhibition and business networking opportunity at CastExpo: the Cast in North America (CINA) pavilion. CINA foundries share their capabilities with casting designers and buyers, highlighting their companies' craftsmanship, reliability, and value. The Casting Designers & Buyers track at CastExpo provides hard-to-find training for engineers, supply chain pros, and OEM representatives, who attend these educational sessions right on the show floor, near CINA booths.

CastExpo 2022 is April 23-26 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Exhibit space is limited. For more information on exhibiting, visit [www.CastExpo.com](http://www.CastExpo.com). To secure your best exhibit placement, email us at [exhibits@castexpo.com](mailto:exhibits@castexpo.com).

## Milwaukee to host Metalcasting Congress 2024

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will play host to Metalcasting Congress 2024, AFS's annual meeting and industry showcase.

This is the seventh time the show will be held in Milwaukee since 1903.

"Milwaukee's rich manufacturing culture, paired with the many foundries and industry suppliers who call Wisconsin home, made Milwaukee a perfect choice to host Metalcasting Congress," said AFS CEO Doug Kurkul. "AFS is eager to bring the economic power of the \$44 billion metalcasting industry to Milwaukee in 2024."

This important event on the metalcasting calendar features exhibits from foundries and industry suppliers, technical presentations and educational courses, keynote speeches, and awards for leaders and innovators in metalcasting.

Metalcasting Congress 2024 takes place April 22-24, 2024, at the Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI.

## Safety continued from Page 1

ence. This important conference includes presentations and case studies on topics such as controlling silica exposure, hearing conservation, managing COVID-19, the ASTM heat stress standard, key safety messages, and more. The EHS Conference is Oct. 5-7 in Birmingham, Alabama. Anyone who handles EHS responsibilities in a metalcasting plant, from new employees to seasoned experts, is encouraged to attend.

The 2021 Advanced Air Seminar, with specialized information on air regulations, precedes the EHS Conference on Oct. 3-4 in the same location.

Also, at the Foundry Leadership Summit in Arizona, Sept. 12-14, a panel discussion



will focus on "Safety at the Foundry: The CEO's Perspective." AFS Safety Committee Chair Brent Charlton (Metal Technologies) will moderate a panel that includes Angela Dine Schmeisser (St. Marys Foundry), Ted Schorn (Enkei America), Thomas Teske (EJ) and Matt Fetter (Metal Technologies).

Registration for both conferences is open at [www.AFSinc.org/conferences](http://www.AFSinc.org/conferences).

In November, the AFS Technical Council will hold its customary discussion of safety. Finally, on Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. CT, Ted Schorn (Enkei America) will present an AFS Members Only Webinar, "2020 Safety Data and the Year of COVID: What Does it Tell Foundries?" Using injury and illness data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the webinar will examine the long-term trends in industry safety performance and the impact of COVID and other disruptions. Registration is open at [www.AFSinc.org](http://www.AFSinc.org) under "Upcoming Webinars."

AFS and its members are deeply committed to employee safety. If you would like to join the Safety Committee, and help shape AFS safety initiatives, please contact Kim Perna at [kperna@afsinc.org](mailto:kperna@afsinc.org).

# PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL ASSETS

**Manufacturers  
are a prime target  
for hackers.**

**Don't leave your  
company vulnerable.**

**NAM Cyber Cover** through **AFS** gives Corporate Member companies the advantage of insuring some of their most valuable resources – their digital properties – against cyber threats while also providing them with a risk assessment to identify areas of vulnerability.

For more information, visit:

***[AFSinc.org/nam-cyber-cover](https://AFSinc.org/nam-cyber-cover)***



## AFS commends Senate's bipartisan infrastructure package

AFS urges quick House passage on deal to fund much-needed investment

The Senate approved a sweeping \$1 trillion infrastructure package after weeks of negotiations on Aug. 10, by a vote of 69-30, with 19 Republicans joining all Democrats.

The package provides much-needed new federal investments in a wide range of infrastructure projects. These investments will help generate new demand for construction equipment and materials that metalcasters can supply.

AFS advocated for several provisions contained in the final bill, including ex-



pediting the federal permitting process for construction projects.

The new spending bill is paid for through a host of sources, including re-

purposed COVID-relief funding and extending or reinstating a host of other governmental fees. Unfortunately, the final package reinstates Superfund excise taxes on 42 chemicals, minerals, and metallic elements, which will increase costs for U.S. manufacturers and consumer goods.

The Senate-passed bill now goes to the House, where Democratic leaders have indicated that action on the bill will be delayed unless the Senate passes the much larger budget reconciliation spending and tax bill. That debate is expected to extend into the fall.

AFS is urging the House to quickly pass the bipartisan infrastructure bill and send it to the President for signature.

### The following is a breakdown of the new investments of interest to metalcasters:

- \$110 billion for roads and bridges
- \$25 billion in airport infrastructure
- \$105 billion on water infrastructure, including \$55 billion on drinking water and lead pipe replacement, and \$50 billion on water systems resilience
- \$17 billion in port infrastructure
- \$7.5 billion for a national network of electric vehicle chargers

- \$39 billion in public transit programs
- \$21 billion in environmental remediation for Superfund and brownfield sites
- \$66 billion on passenger rail, including \$22 billion in grants for Amtrak
- \$7.5 billion in new zero-emissions buses & ferries
- \$73.5 billion on upgraded power infrastructure
- \$11 billion in transportation safety programs
- \$65 billion in broadband internet funding to expand internet access for rural communities

## AFS PUBLICATIONS

### New release a must-have for aluminum metalcasters

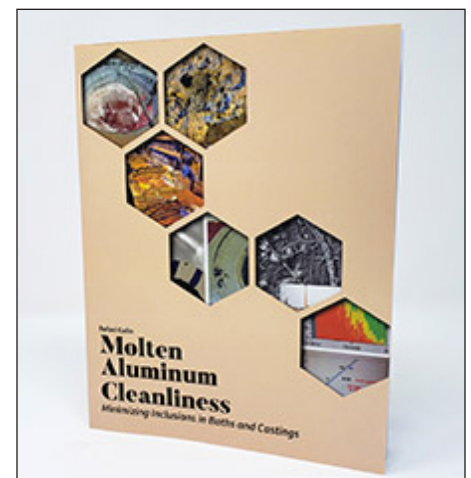
The newest book from AFS promises to be a must-have technical resource for aluminum foundries and the companies that serve them.

Released in print this month, *Molten Aluminum Cleanliness — Minimizing Inclusions in Baths and Castings* by Rafael Gallo tackles two major impurity issues faced by every aluminum foundry: inclusions and hydrogen gas-caused porosity. Drawing on decades of experience in

aluminum casting, Gallo provides a comprehensive look at impurities, their root causes, and practical ways to minimize casting defects. The book covers practical applications, foundry case studies, and state-of-the-art molten metal analytical techniques.

Earlier this summer, Gallo was the featured presenter at the Molten Aluminum Cleanliness Virtual Workshop, which received top marks from attendees for its real-world applications.

Gallo is an aluminum casting specialist with experience in operations, research, equipment, and supplies. A frequent contributor to many research journals, *Molten Aluminum Cleanliness — Minimizing Inclusions in Baths and Castings* is based on his extensive foundry background, research, and metallurgical and analytical



skills. Gallo is currently technical consultant for Pyrotek.

To purchase your own copy, visit [www.AFSinc.org/store](http://www.AFSinc.org/store).

## AFS announces new research board chair, member

AFS has welcomed a new member and announced a new chair for its Research Board, which oversees AFS's substantial research program.

Jim Archibald of ArchLLC, and formerly of ASK Chemicals, will serve as the board's chair. Kathy Hayrynen of Applied Process, Inc. joins as a new member.

Other members of the AFS Research Board are Andy Bain (Ford Meter Box), Don Craig (Watts Water Technologies Inc.) and Mark Osborne (Wabtec).

AFS research forms the backbone of

the society's commitment to industry innovation. Currently, AFS is funding more than \$400,000 in metalcasting research across a wide range of alloys and processes. Each year, a portion of Corporate Member dues are designated to support this research.

Another \$2 million in government-sponsored, defense-related casting research is managed by AFS.

The AFS Research Board reviews and establishes priorities for AFS-sponsored research, selecting projects and provid-

ing insight. Most, but not all, research projects are developed by AFS technical committees. The mix of projects varies each year, based on submissions.

Members of the Research Board serve staggered five-year terms.

If you're interested in participating in an AFS research project or committee activity, contact Senior Technical Associate Bo Wallace at [bwallace@afsinc.org](mailto:bwallace@afsinc.org).

To submit a research proposal to AFS, visit [www.afsinc.org/submitting-research-proposal](http://www.afsinc.org/submitting-research-proposal).

## International Journal Of Metalcasting honored for editorial excellence

AFS's technical and research publication has been recognized for editorial excellence.

*International Journal of Metalcasting* and Editor-in-Chief Tom Prucha performed in the top 10% of all qualifying journals based on Springer Nature's Journal Author Satisfaction survey, the publisher recently announced.

"AFS is proud to publish *IJMC*, and we're pleased to see Editor-in-Chief Tom Prucha recognized for his skilled leader-

ship of this journal," said AFS CEO Doug Kurkul. "*IJMC* delivers vital metalcasting research to metallurgists, engineers, academics, and other foundry professionals. We thank Springer Nature for this recognition."

*IJMC* is a peer-reviewed quarterly journal that leads the way in the transfer of research and technology for the global metalcasting industry. It is the official research journal of the World Foundry Organization.

Last year, *IJMC*'s Impact Factor, a widely used metric which reflects the number of times a journal is cited by researchers, showed *IJMC* was the highest-ranked journal dedicated to serving the metalcasting industry.

Every AFS Corporate Member receives a subscription to the *IJMC* as a Corporate Member benefit. Individual members can purchase a subscription through AFS. For individual member subscriptions, or to update or renew Corporate Member subscriptions to *IJMC*, email [customerservice@afsinc.org](mailto:customerservice@afsinc.org). Non-members can subscribe at [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com).

*IJMC* is published by AFS in partnership with Springer Nature Publications.

## Upgraded alloy database project goes live

An online database of alloy properties has been upgraded thanks to a partnership between AFS, the American Metalcasting Consortium, and the Defense Logistics Agency.

Casting Alloy Data Search, commonly referred to as CADS, is a tool to assist design and foundry engineers by providing comprehensive cast alloy engineering properties and pedigree information. This includes section thickness, typical composition, casting process, and molding material used.

The new website, at [www.afscads.com](http://www.afscads.com), launched this summer.

Extensive pedigree information is what sets CADS apart from many similar databases. Whereas some sources provide outdated information or exclude original process-related details (such as part size, how it was made, or thickness of the material the test bars were taken from), CADS offers detailed casting process pedigree information. Users can search by strength

property, select from an alloy grade list, or utilize a global alloy search.

Primary sources of CADS data are AFS research projects, as well as data from U.S.-based foundries or other research organizations.

CADS is free to use. To get started, visit [www.afscads.com](http://www.afscads.com) and select "Search CADS Now."



# A CAREER ENRICHED BY AFS INVOLVEMENT

A career in metalcasting can be extraordinarily rewarding. AFS plays a pivotal role in enriching metalcasting careers at every stage.

## PRE-COLLEGE

- Foundry in a Box Demonstrations
- Melting Point, Website and Magazine

## COLLEGE

- AFS and FEF Scholarships
- Student Chapters
- FEF Industry Night
- Student Casting Competition
- Student Attendance at Metalcasting Congress
- Joint FEF-AFS Letter to Graduates

## CAREER

- Free First-Year AFS Membership
- Best Practices
- Future Leaders in Metalcasting
- Women in Metalcasting
- Publications
- Library Resources
- AFS Institute Courses & e-Learning
- Committee Involvement
- Technical & Management Conferences
- Regional Chapter Meetings
- Committee and Chapter Leadership
- New Technology Development and Research
- Case Study Applications
- Casting Connections Online Peer Network
- Industry Updates Through Member Connections
- Advocacy at AFS Fly-In
- Innovation/Technology at CastExpo & Congress
- AFS Awards
- Service Life Membership



## Engineering Division expands focus to include smart manufacturing

The AFS Engineering Division is a leader in fostering the use of emerging technologies in foundries. Now, that focus is reflected in the group's new name: the AFS Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division.

Led by Chair Brandon Kruse (Magaldi Technologies LLC) and Vice Chair Greg Bray (Electric Controls & Systems Inc.), the Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division will drive research and innovation in new technologies for metalcasters. This includes robots and cobots,

artificial intelligence, augmented reality, data collection, the Industrial Internet of Things, and other tools associated with smart manufacturing.

"Metalcasting is undergoing an incredible transformation, and the AFS Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division is transforming right along with it," said AFS Technical Director Tom Dore. "Emerging technologies are expanding the possibilities of what a metal casting can achieve, while also improving foundry and supply chain efficiency, safety, and

quality. This is an exciting time for our industry."

The division's new name was officially announced at the Foundry Industry 4.0 Conference, which featured presentations from leading manufacturing technology experts.

The division is accepting new members. To express your interest in joining the AFS Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division, email Tom Dore at [tdore@afsinc.org](mailto:tdore@afsinc.org). Division members must be members of AFS to join.

### Division creates new smart manufacturing working groups

The AFS Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division has launched several new working groups focused on smart manufacturing in metalcasting.

Following up on the recent AFS Foundry Industry 4.0 conference, AFS held a virtual roundtable meeting on smart manufacturing in early August,

attended by several dozen metalcasting industry experts.

Attendees discussed smart manufacturing, how AFS can assist foundries to incorporate smart manufacturing into their operations, technical gaps that impede smart manufacturing activities in foundries, and where opportunities and concerns exist for metalcasters when it comes to these new technologies and processes.

Seven new working groups have been developed and meetings will begin in a few weeks.

- Wearable Technology for Worker

#### Safety

- Sensors
- Data Analytics
- Data Collection and Storage
- Workforce Development, Personnel and Training
- Standards
- Cybersecurity
- ICME, Casting Design and Simulation

To join a working group or for more information on the Engineering and Smart Manufacturing Division, click here or email Tom Dore at [tdore@afsinc.org](mailto:tdore@afsinc.org).

## AFS INSTITUTE

### Institute offers biz law certificate program presented by Northwestern

Understanding business law is critical in today's complex marketplace, even for non-lawyers. Now metalcasting professionals have a convenient way to learn about the U.S. legal system thanks to a new partnership between the AFS Institute and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Business Law for Leaders is an online educational program for executives, owners, managers, and other decisionmak-

ers. It provides students with knowledge to guide the strategic directions of their businesses, mitigate risk, and make better leadership decisions.

Taught by a tenured Kellogg professor and backed by the AFS Institute, this eight-week program covers legal issues of major importance to metalcasting leaders, including: legal systems and the role of regulation, tort law, contract law, antitrust and competition law, intellectual property strategies, corporations, LLCs, partnerships, and other business entities, and corporate governance.

Students will leave the program with a foundational knowledge of U.S. business laws and regulations, plus the expertise to interpret and navigate them. Lessons are taught in plain English rather than

"legalese," so a background in law is not required or expected.

Business Law for Leaders runs Oct. 13 to Dec. 14, with five to seven hours of self-paced learning per week. Students will interact with peers and learning facilitators, meet in class-wide forums and small groups, take part in live sessions with faculty, and reinforce their learning with interactive activities and quizzes. Students who meet all requirements will receive an official digital certificate of completion from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

For more information or to register, visit [www.afsinc.org/courses](http://www.afsinc.org/courses). Questions? Contact Jen Christian, AFS Institute Director of Training Solutions, at [jchristian@afsinc.org](mailto:jchristian@afsinc.org).

## Lakas promoted to senior VP

AFS is pleased to announce Mike Lakas has been promoted to Senior Vice President of IT, Operations and Trade Shows.

Lakas, who oversees planning for major AFS events as well as the society's IT and web operations, joined AFS in 2014 and was promoted to vice president in 2016. Previously, he worked for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned his MBA.

In his new role, Lakas will have increased responsibility in planning and executing CastExpo and Metalcasting Congress, among other duties. To reach him, email [mlakas@afsinc.org](mailto:mlakas@afsinc.org).



Mike Lakas

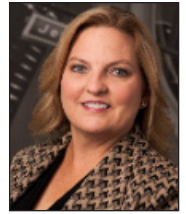
## Farrugia joins AFS after 23 years with SME

### Business Development Manager to focus on member success

A new member of the AFS Society Business Development team will focus on delivering superior services and supporting the success of corporate and individual members of AFS.

Kimberly Farrugia is the new AFS Business Development Manager, a role which includes serving as a liaison between regional chapters and AFS; building and supporting AFS's current and prospective membership base; and helping members reach their technical and business objectives. She will also serve as liaison to the AFS Steel Division, working closely with Division Chair Robert Tuttle (Saginaw Valley State University) and the division membership.

Farrugia brings decades of experience to the job, having worked for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) for 23 years. She has a degree from Michigan State University.



Kimberly Farrugia

"We're thrilled to welcome Kimberly to the AFS staff," said Ben Yates, Vice President of Marketing & Business Development. "Her focus on member success, combined with her dedication to supporting manufacturing, will make her a great asset for members and a perfect addition to our team."

Farrugia is looking forward to meeting many AFS members in the months to come. To get in touch, email her at [kfarrugia@afsinc.org](mailto:kfarrugia@afsinc.org) or call 1-734-308-1171.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### MFG Day 2021: Get involved by hosting an event

Over the next decade, an estimated 4.6 million U.S. manufacturing jobs will need to be filled. But many young people don't know about these great career opportunities – that's where Manufacturing Day comes in.

Recognized nationwide the first Friday of October, MFG Day allows manufacturers to showcase industry technology, products, and career opportunities to the

future generation of workers. Your company can host an event in person, virtually, or as a hybrid, on or around Oct. 1, 2021. These events can include plant tours for community members, Zoom meetings with high school or college manufacturing technology classes, career fairs, or anything that fits your company's needs.

To assist Corporate Members in planning a successful event, AFS has prepared several resources on its Manufacturing Day webpage ([www.AFSinc.org/manufacturing-day-2021](http://www.AFSinc.org/manufacturing-day-2021)), including:

- A step-by-step Manufacturing Day guide to put on your own event

- A press release template
- A Foundry-in-A-Box how-to guide to create a demo (plus details on purchasing finished kits)
- Shareable videos profiling metalcasting processes and careers
- Social media graphics, metalcasting fact sheets and other promotional materials

We will be highlighting participating members on AFS social media channels, so let us know if you're hosting an event! Send your plans or questions regarding MFG Day to Katelyn Stanek at [kstanek@afsinc.org](mailto:kstanek@afsinc.org).

## BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

### Foundry Producer Price Index at 10-year high, AFS report finds

The U.S. foundry producer price index is slated to rise in 2021 to the highest levels in a decade, according to a recent report from AFS.

The AFS 2021 Mid-Year Forecast & Trends shows PPI increasing 5.8% this year. The report calculates the industry's three-year compound annual growth rate for PPI, which includes the pandemic-induced recession, at 1.6%.

AFS compiles two economic forecasts

per year to help metalcasters benchmark their performance and plan for the future. PPI is one of many metrics measured; others include sector growth, operating expenses, payroll per employee, revenue per company, and plant utilization.

Each report is created by economic analysts utilizing historical trends, industry dynamics, econometrics, and macroeconomic trends. Core data is sourced from comprehensive business surveys from the

Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other government agencies.

AFS Forecast & Trends is a member benefit provided at no charge to all AFS Corporate Members. Others may purchase the report, priced at \$1,000 for non-members, from the AFS Store at [www.AFSinc.org/store](http://www.AFSinc.org/store).

If your Corporate Member company has not yet received its report via email, please email Ben Yates at [byates@afsinc.org](mailto:byates@afsinc.org).

## Expanded research competition to launch at CastExpo

Top student projects will be published in *International Journal of Metalcasting*, a rarity for undergrads

**A**n updated format and more prizes are among the big changes coming to an annual metalcasting research competition for undergraduate students.

The new IJMC-FEF Student Research Competition will be unveiled at CastExpo 2022, April 23-26 in Columbus, Ohio. This competition replaces the event formerly known as the AFS/FEF Student Technology Poster Contest.

The new co-branding with the *International Journal of Metalcasting* highlights the research aspect of this competition, which is distinctive – it allows outstanding undergraduate researchers to be published in *IJMC*, the official research journal of the World Foundry Organization. This is a rare opportunity for undergrads.

Students will summarize their research on metalcasting or molten metal processing by submitting a brief, narrated PowerPoint presentation to AFS's panel of judges, all of whom are experts in the field of metalcasting technology. Submissions may come from teams or



A student presents research at CastExpo 2019 in Atlanta. Next year's competition, co-presented by the International Journal of Metalcasting and the Foundry Educational Foundation, will feature a new name and new format.

individuals.

Students who submit top entries will be asked to present their findings in person on the show floor at CastExpo, after which up to three winners, ranked first to third, will be announced. A total of \$4,000 in scholarships is up for grabs.

As always, students will receive complimentary admission to CastExpo.

Judging criteria include technical content, relevance, innovation, and presen-

tation. The competition is open to North American citizens who are undergraduate students currently enrolled in metalcasting-related programs at FEF-certified and affiliated schools.

Official submission documents and deadlines will be available soon. For eligibility requirements, a judging rubric, and more information, visit [www.AFSinc.org/ijmc-fef-student-research-competition](http://www.AFSinc.org/ijmc-fef-student-research-competition).

## Sales of art underway to benefit Foundry Educational Foundation

**S**ales of new artwork celebrating the American Foundry Society's 125th anniversary will benefit the Foundry Educational Foundation thanks to a generous gift from the AFS North Mexico Chapter.

"125 Years of AFS," a striking oil painting depicting four foundry workers hand-pouring metal, was created by Rodrigo Calderon, an accomplished artist and AFS member from Mexico who paints under the name R.C. Athie.

The original artwork was presented to AFS by the North Mexico Chapter. Chapter members wanted to celebrate

AFS's anniversary and encourage industry education by allowing reproductions to be sold as a fundraiser for FEF, which supports students and teachers in metalcasting education. The art is now available for purchase from AFS in two ways: as a poster-sized print, and as a set of greeting cards.

The full-color print is suitable for framing, making it perfect for home or office. Measuring 24 x 36 inches, it retails for \$42. Greeting cards featuring the artwork are sold in packages of eight for \$40. They measure 5 x 7 inches and include envelopes. To make your purchase,



Rodrigo Calderon (Questum) created this oil painting, "125 Years of AFS." The North Mexico Chapter donated it to AFS to mark the society's anniversary and so that sales of prints could benefit FEF.

visit [www.AFSinc.org/store](http://www.AFSinc.org/store).

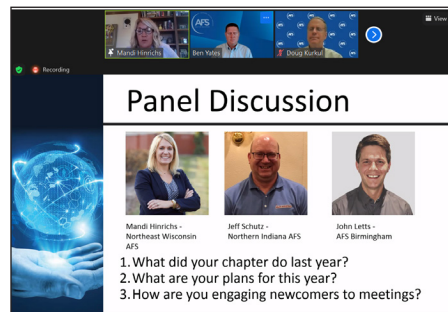
All profits from the sale of these prints and cards will be donated to FEF.

# AFS Chapter leaders share ideas at yearly meeting

Tips for recruiting, holding hybrid events, and making young members feel welcome were among the topics discussed at the annual AFS Chapter Officers Conference this month.

The get-together went virtual this year, with officers and other leaders from regional chapters joining in via Zoom for a panel discussion and information-sharing on how to get the most out of chapter events.

Some regional chapters have resumed in-person events, including popular traditions such as golf tournaments. Many chapters have adopted a hybrid approach, whereby some members meet in person while others teleconference to meetings. In some cases, leaders said, having a hybrid or virtual option has led to higher participation and allowed for a broader range of presenters at meetings, since



they no longer have to travel to events.

AFS regional chapters represent AFS at the local level, offering networking and educational opportunities. Some hold monthly dinner meetings, others opt for quarterly technical presentations, while some even host their own regional conferences with neighboring chapters – each group chooses the best approach for its membership. Chapters are welcoming

## Update Your Chapter Roster

If you represent an AFS Regional or AFS Student Chapter, please take a moment to make sure AFS HQ has your current chapter roster and list of officers. An up-to-date chapter lists ensures members receive accurate and timely information. Send regional chapter rosters to [byates@afsinc.org](mailto:byates@afsinc.org) and student chapter rosters to [kstanek@afsinc.org](mailto:kstanek@afsinc.org). Thanks for your help!

new members. To find your region's chapter or to see what's on the chapter calendar, visit [www.AFSinc.org/regional-chapters](http://www.AFSinc.org/regional-chapters). And remember, AFS chapters are active on college campuses, too. To learn more about AFS Student Chapters, visit [www.AFSinc.org/student-chapters-0](http://www.AFSinc.org/student-chapters-0).

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Environmental, Health and Safety Conference

Wynfrey Hotel | Birmingham, AL | October 5 - 7, 2021

## The Foundry Industry's Premier Conference for EHS Professionals

Network, benchmark, and learn from your peers at the *33rd Environmental, Health & Safety Conference*. Featuring:

- Case studies of successful foundry EHS projects
- Cutting-edge insights from regulatory and EHS experts
- Vendors offering the latest products and services

Plus, get specialized, hands-on training in air regulations at the 2021 Advanced Air Seminar, happening at the same venue Oct. 3-4.

Learn more and register:

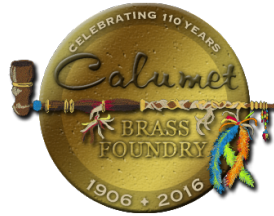
[afsinc.org/2021EHS](http://afsinc.org/2021EHS)

# AFS WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

*Through Aug. 5, 2021*



**Blaylock Industries Inc.**  
*Fort Worth, Texas*



**Calumet Brass Foundry Inc.**  
*Dolton, Illinois*



**Chicago Extruded Metals Co.**  
*Cicero, Illinois*



**GE Global Research**  
*Niskayuna, New York*



**Griffin Industries Corp.**  
*Suamico, Wisconsin*



A Balcon Enterprises Inc. Company

**Helluva Container**  
*Elk Point, South Dakota*



**OEE Companies**

**OEE Companies, LLC**  
*North Oaks, Minnesota*



**Rapid Cast Technologies LLC**  
*Temperance, Michigan*



**Standard Manufacturers  
Services Limited**

**Standard Manufacturers  
Services Limited**  
*Winnipeg, Manitoba*

## AFS EVENTS

**2021 Foundry Leadership Summit** |  
Scottsdale, AZ | Sept. 12-14

**2021 Casting Copper Alloys Workshop** |  
Schaumburg, IL | Sept. 14-15

**2021 Practical Cupola Workshop** | Rock-  
ford, IL | Sept. 28-29

**2021 Advanced Air Seminar** | Birming-  
ham, AL | Oct. 3-4

**2021 EHS Conference** | Birmingham, AL  
| Oct. 5-7

## INSTITUTE COURSES

**Aluminum Metalcasting 101: Live Online**  
| Aug. 24-25, noon-4 p.m. (CT)

**Introduction to Metalcasting: Live On-  
line** | Sept. 8-10, noon-4 p.m. (CT)

**Gating and Riser Design 201: Live Online**  
| Sept. 21-23, noon-4 p.m. (CT)

**Steel Melting 201: Live Online** | Sept.  
28-30, noon-4 p.m. (CT)

**Casting Cost Estimating: Live Online** |  
Oct. 5-7, 1-5 p.m. (CT)

## 2020-2021 AFS OFFICERS

**Michael L. Lenahan, President**  
CEO  
KB Foundry Services

**Adam San Solo, Vice President**  
Director of Sales & Engineering  
US Foundry & Manufacturing Company

**Bradford Muller, 2nd Vice President**  
Vice President of Marketing  
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry

**Peter C. Reich, Immediate Past President**  
Co-Owner  
LAEMPE REICH

## AFS SENIOR STAFF

**CEO**  
Doug Kurkul, [dkurkul@afsinc.org](mailto:dkurkul@afsinc.org)

**Chief Technical Services Officer**  
Steve Robison, [srobison@afsinc.org](mailto:srobison@afsinc.org)

**Vice President of Marketing &  
Business Development**  
Ben Yates, [byates@afsinc.org](mailto:byates@afsinc.org)

**Senior Vice President for IT, Operations and Trade  
Shows**  
Mike Lakas, [mlakas@afsinc.org](mailto:mlakas@afsinc.org)

**Director of Accounting & Finance**  
Peggy Mennella, [pmennella@afsinc.org](mailto:pmennella@afsinc.org)

**Director of Human Resources &  
Administrative Services**  
Cathy Potts, [cpotts@afsinc.org](mailto:cpotts@afsinc.org)

## MEMBER CONNECTIONS STAFF

**Editor & Writer**  
Katelyn Stanek, [kstanek@afsinc.org](mailto:kstanek@afsinc.org)  
**Writer**  
Jessie Schlacks, [jschlacks@afsinc.org](mailto:jschlacks@afsinc.org)  
**Senior Manager of Creative Services**  
Tyler Buchenot, [tbuchenot@afsinc.org](mailto:tbuchenot@afsinc.org)

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*Member Connections* is a newsletter for all current  
AFS members. Send all inquiries to Katelyn Stanek  
at [kstanek@afsinc.org](mailto:kstanek@afsinc.org) or 847-824-0181 ext. 286.

### Steel Melting 201\*

Sept. 28 - 30 | Noon - 4 p.m. CT

Steel Melting 201 will cover the operations of steel melting furnaces including electric arc and induction; the process steps of charging and start up, melt down, chemistry slag control, alloying, tapping, and post melt processing methods.

### Casting Cost Estimating

October 5 - 7 | 1 - 5 p.m. CT

Cost estimating is a critical factor in ensuring a manufacturer continues to acquire customers and remains profitable.

### The 10-Step Method for Corrective Action

October 8 | Noon - 4 p.m. CT

This course provides participants a basic overview of the casting defect analysis procedure, and an introduction to the 10-step Procedure for casting defect identification.

### Aluminum Metallurgy 201\*

October 12 - 14 | Noon - 4 p.m. CT

The purpose of this course is to provide target audience participants with knowledge and skills regarding the nomenclature, terminology, principles, and techniques for the metallurgy of aluminum base casting alloys.

\*No prerequisites required.



AFS Institute

## UPCOMING LIVE ONLINE COURSES

The *AFS Institute* is offering introductory and career-advancing courses *Live Online*. Get the tools and knowledge you need from the comfort of your own home or office via Zoom.

Check out all the *AFS Institute's* upcoming courses online at [www.afsinc.org/courses](http://www.afsinc.org/courses).

**Questions?**

Contact **Jen Christian**,  
Director of Training Solutions, at  
[jchristian@afsinc.org](mailto:jchristian@afsinc.org).