



Student Responses 2008 CIC

The things that impressed you the most.

The direct contact that students were able to have with company who could be possible future employers. Also, the honesty of the companies' representatives in regard to job openings despite the current economic situation.

The thing which impressed me the most was the friendly and helpful nature of just about everyone I spoke with. All of the representatives from either companies or from the professional organizations were honest and answered my questions without hesitation. Beyond that, they were helpful in providing additional insight about the industry, their own organization, and considering my own experience and career goals they made helpful suggestions. I was at the time considering my offers for full time employment.

I was most impressed by the speakers and the guests of industry. It was really cool to have VP's of major corporations asking me why I'm into casting and how I got into it.

I was very impressed with the way the FEF treated its students. I felt a lot of mutual respect shared among FEF administrators, key professors, other delegates and company representatives.

I was impressed by how many effective programs were run in such a short amount of time. The industries support of FEF and CIC.

I was most impressed by the number of companies in attendance willing to talk about employment opportunities and their products. I remember reading that there were slightly fewer companies than normal, but there still seemed to be quite a few.

I was impressed by the organization of the whole conference and the treatment we received at the Drake.

How well everything was planned. Hospitality and friendliness of the companies.

The amount of passion the company representatives, speakers, and CIC organizers showed for the metal casting industry was intoxicating.

Very organized event. The amount of companies that showed up to the event. Great location and hotel. Industry guest speakers

The thing that impressed me the most is how everyone in the foundry business is related and how they are helping each other.

The things that impressed you the most. (continued)

I was most impressed by the amount of delegates that were able to come to the conference and the diversity of schools present. However, I was truly impressed with the entire conference, the food was delicious, and the speakers very well spoken. The location was also great.

I really enjoyed the whole experience. This is my second time in Chicago for this event and I really enjoyed the whole thing again.

How smoothly the whole event went. That we stayed in one of Chicago's premier hotels. The support from the industry is amazing. The amount of scholarship funds awarded

I was most impressed by the enthusiasm that the speakers and officials of the conference brought with them when they were speaking.

I was really impressed about how well the representatives answered all of my questions. The CIC was much better than any career fair I have attended to with respect to the cast metals industry. It was very generous for the attending companies to take students out to dinner. It was nice to get an understanding of the industry outside of the career fair setting and learn what an engineering job in a metal casting facility would really be like.

Scale of everything. Amount of involvement by previous delegates and industry.

I was impressed the most by the amount of companies at the convention, and their hospitality that they displayed. I was also impressed by how much everyone was giving back in support of the future. I was impressed by the weekend. I thought it was organized very well.

I was most impressed by the companies and their willingness to keep the industry alive by sparking our interest and encouraging us.

I was impressed most by the event overall. I think it was very evident that FEF is interested in getting students involved and interested in the industry. It was a very elegant and professional conference.

The organization of such a large event. Industry representatives and their interests with the delegates
Knowledge of the key note speakers and their interest with the delegates.

I was most impressed with the friendship everyone was willing to offer. I met great people from nearly every company and school that attended.

The organization and planning ahead of time. I pretty much knew what was going on the entire weekend before I even stepped foot into Chicago.

The thing that impressed me the most was knowing that most of the people that were representing the companies were past FEF students as well. It just goes to show how well this conference works seeing that they are all still in the metal casting industry.

The things you felt could be improved.

The time-table for the conference could be improved. Also, there could be improvement in the procedure for the students and company representatives to meet and talk.

The process of accepting/declining dinner invitations was awkward. Also, more breaks or tours outside of the hotel.

I think delegates and employers would both benefit from extending the business fair, possibly by removing the mixer and using that time. I think the format of the follow up session with employers wasn't overly effective and could have been better used as time for another speaker.

Overall the event was run very well. There are only a few things I would like to see next year. I would like to have a few extra business cards, I ran out quickly. I believe many students do not have business cards yet or are still working on them

Amount of time to go through and complete the whole event was rather short.

One suggestion would be for the 45 minute informal meeting with the company's another diagram of the table set up would have been helpful.

I feel that the CIC was a very good experience and needs no improvement. The students were taken care of very well with meals/breaks/speakers scheduled well.

I would enjoy more student mixer time, but I do agree that we are there for the employers not the students.

As a student from Southern California I felt I was written off in the mind of most of the industries present. I could definitely feel a drop in their enthusiasm once then read that I was from California off my name tag. I did not feel as though they were all really talking to me after that. I would like to see some industry from California there or at least some more areas outside of the Midwest if possible, I believe there were two companies from west coast area but I am not sure. Talking with others from my area, all of us noticed the same almost been written off feeling from all the industry guys we talked to.

I would prefer that the speakers are more prepared so that they do not have to read off a paper.

I originally heard that this conference was a great opportunity to get a job however, after talking with other delegates I thought that the attending companies were not hiring as much as expected.

I believe the number of the companies should be increased than this and the time for talking with them should be longer than what we have.

Where I believe there could be some improvements in this conference would be to first limit the number of students that are taken to the conference as well as the number of employers that attend. I believe this would allow for individuals that are serious about getting a job in this industry get a more personal experience with the companies that are looking to hire engineers. I know that I talked personally with some of the companies at the conference that were looking for sales personal, or other companies that weren't looking to hire at all.

On the whole the conference was very well planned and executed.

Your new ideas and suggestions for our conferences in the future.

My idea for improving the time-table of the conference would be to implement more breaks between events. To improve the procedure for students and company representatives to meet, I would divide the students into small groups and then have these groups rotate to meet with each of the individual company representatives. This would ensure each student has the opportunity to talk directly to company representatives.

Possibly a more clear order or way of defining what sort of candidates each company was seeking at the conference. I felt like at times I was speaking with companies who had nothing in common with me, my experience, or my education. Although this is of small consequence, it's good to gain perspective about the industry as a whole.

Activities and workshops for the students and only students.

Also, I think it is a shame to have all of these industry leaders and students together and not have some sort of teaching presentation. I was very interested in the Caterpillar "re-manufacturing" process for example. A short presentation by an industry leader showing an innovative process or emerging technology would be beneficial.

More scholarships in smaller amounts so more people could receive them.

The speakers even though they had different subjects to talk about, still all touched on the economy and it started to get old.

Maybe students could have some ice breaker activities so that they could know each other more

Maybe the key professor could talk/mix with the other students from another school, so then when they mix with the students from that school or become a "roomie" they have some kind of background.

Maybe offer a competition idea where schools could create a casting and it could be judged by the speakers or a panel of some sort. Possibly a scholarship could be awarded to that school or prize of some sort.

A little more free time for the delegates would be nice. I don't know where you could fit that in, but the whole trip is pretty exhausting. But completely worth it.

I would like to listen to a few more speakers from industry.

Reduce the length of the presentations on Friday or somehow make them a little more interactive.

Possibly add a delegate "break-out" session, where delegates are assigned to a group with all different schools and they have to solve a problem or provide feedback on a topic within industry and then present to the group. I felt that I got to meet a lot of students from all over, but I think that adding this would provide more opportunity for students to interact.

Rather than a general lecture, have smaller focus groups or session you can choose to attend.

Your new ideas and suggestions for our conferences in the future. (continued)

Although most of the companies that I talked to at the conference were not hiring at this time, I was able to talk to the representatives and get some contacts inside the industry. I was also able to talk to the representatives about my senior project which is to develop two new sand testing machines. Many companies seemed very interested. This gave me more of a reason to be excited about the opportunities that my research will provide in regulating foundry sand.

The only minor suggestion I would have would be to allow for more casual time to talk with the companies and industry professionals. Not all of the companies were at the follow up meeting so the only time to talk to them was during the first 2 hour event. Something similar to the student mixer may be helpful to get to know other companies and employees other than the one that we went out to dinner with.

What effect did this conference have on you personally and with your career plans?

This conference made the foundry industry seem more appealing than it had before, although I am still very uncertain about which career path I might take.

I realized the casting industry has jobs ranging from manufacturing and production to research. In addition, I realize the importance of professional societies to industry and the education of its future employees.

No effect. My career was not changed as a result of the event.

I am excited to graduate and hopefully find a future in the metal casting industry.

Through this event, I have gotten more exposure to the globalness of casting. I have had one call back from one company.

I had the opportunity to speak with a variety of different companies and this gave me a better perspective on the support areas available for employment within the metal casting industry.

Reinforced an already ecstatic opinion about FEF and the casting industry.

It helped me narrow down what I really want to do in the industry. It also helped on what the job market is looking for and how the economy is also affects the current search in finding a job.

The conference affected my career plans by developing an interest in rapid prototyping. Before attending I was not aware of the role of casting in rapid prototyping. It was also good experience talking to industry representatives and note what questions were commonly asked, seeing what they noticed on my resume, etc.

This conference helped me realize that there are some really interesting companies out there.

Gave me a broad range of knowledge to what a lot of companies do around the US.

What effect did this conference have on you personally and with your career plans? (continued)

Personally showed me how great it would be to work in the casting industry since everyone seemed to like their careers. I definitely am considering future work with one of the companies present at the conference.

This conference made the foundry industry seem more appealing than it had before, although I am still very uncertain about which career path I might take.

Before the conference I was not sure whether to go into the metal casting business or initial product design. But during the conference I quickly became more excited with the idea of working with metal casting as a profession.

With the ailing economy, the encouragement the speakers gave helped ease the tension in just taking any engineering job even if it where not with a metals casting company.

Huge. I feel so much confident that I choose the right major.

Strengthen my involvement in the metalcasting industry.

Found out that there are much more your professor can teach you beyond classroom. As with my career plan, can't wait to learn more from the industry.

I really appreciate the chance to come to the CIC for a second time. It helps me network with foundries who help me in my research and I have a lot of contacts for when I'm looking for a job after I graduate.

Strengthened my desire to work in the industry that is supported this well, and has a great sense of comraderie among everyone. I look forward to being able to help out FEF in the future.

It reminded me why I enjoyed the foundry industry so much and reaffirmed my desire to find a career in that industry.

I am going into automotive engineering, wasn't specifically sure what subfield though until my experience at the conference, leading towards metal casting industry now.

The CIC solidified my desire to work in the cast metals industry. I have submitted resumes to several companies I was not aware of before the conference and am currently interviewing with two other facilities producing castings for the nuclear industry (in addition to marine propulsion and others). I was surprised by the number and knowledge of the companies supporting the metal casting facilities.

Personally it proved to me once again that the metal casting industry is in desperate need of young college graduates. Though the economic future looks bleak right now, I am still determined to get involved.

Solidified my interest in pursuing a career the metal casting industry.

My plans for the future remain largely unchanged, it was nice to see foundry support industries there, but nothing that really took my breath away and would cause me to alter my plans for future jobs.

The conference, for me, was a great tool for meeting possible employers and future colleagues.

What effect did this conference have on you personally and with your career plans? (continued)

It showed that there is a need for industrial and manufacturing engineers. It did not really affect my career plans because there were not many employers looking to hire mechanical engineers.

This conference showed me that there are many different ways I could get involved in the metal casting industry beyond the foundry work I was looking for. I am graduating this December and am getting married in January, so my job search has a certain sense of urgency behind it. It was very disheartening then to hear many of the companies in attendance were under hiring freezes. Perhaps a good measure for admitting companies to the CIC next year would be if they were actually hiring at the time.

The conference gave me even more of a desire to pursue a career in the foundry industry.

Much, because today I am totally convinced of wanting to do my career on a foundry.

Much, because now I know I made a right choice studying about foundry, now I know I can wait for a good job.

I think I may have helped me in getting a job I was currently interviewing for. I am relatively new to the casting industry, and am realizing the many opportunities available. I will definitely be looking for a position within the casting industry in the near future.

It allowed me to contact many members of the industry that I hope to remain in contact with. Although Canadian, they still insisted that I forward my work experiences to them for their records. This may allow relocation if needed to find new employment. Also it has shown that my hard work in the industry was recognized and I will continue on the career path I have chosen.

I have a much stronger focus on attaining a career in the casting industry now.

I was thinking to complete my career in the university as a teacher and researcher but after having this direct contact with the industrial people I believe that I'll find myself better working as a team member in any big company.

It gave me the chance to really talk with the companies, which I would not have otherwise. I hope that it opens some new doors to me.

I enjoyed the speakers and felt that they shared valuable opinions and information.

Gathered a ton of information about what jobs are in need and learned some pretty cool stuff about the industry in general.

This conference has increased my interest in working in the metal casting industry. I was interested before but the level of support and enthusiasm for the industry will have a lasting impression on me. Also, the industry contacts will be very valuable in my search for a career in the metal casting industry.

How well did you relate to the speakers?

The speakers answered several questions I had about the casting industry in the current world economy, and how it would adapt to future obstacles. The speakers provided plenty of facts on each of their topics without making each speak overly technical.

I thought they were all very interesting.

I found the passion of the speakers really impressive. They weren't just reading slides, they knew what they were talking about and they wanted to be there.

I felt the speakers spoke on issues relevant to today's casting industry as it relates to the current economic climate. I felt this format was interesting and useful to the up and coming leaders of the metal casting industry.

Very well overall, I think that their expertise was far beyond mine but am glad to be able to follow.

The speakers related really well to me. It helped in showing me where the casting industry has been since its origins, and where it is currently going.

I related well to the speakers in general. Two of the speakers in particular, Ray Monroe and Michelle Keil, were exceptional.

I was able to relate with some of the speakers. They were all very interesting.

All of the speakers were clear and I could relate to their topics except the last presentation on the history of casting which was not very helpful.

Raymond's talk was entertaining and informative. The topic of sustainability was alright, but seemed more relevant to surface finishing and treatment and counter to the casting and forming of metal.

Very well! Kathy's and Ray's presentations on innovation and globalization really gave direction to the future of metalcasting.

It was topics that I am familiar with, but I wish it could have been focused more on a specific subject, like maybe a suggestion or theory on what should be done to fix the problems.

I thought each speaker did a good job and I was able to understand and follow the message each was trying to deliver.

Speakers were very thorough and it was very nice of them to share their experiences with us the way they did.

Quite well, all of the speakers had something to offer and interest me with. Though sometimes it seemed they got off track with their presentations.

I enjoyed the speakers, and I thought they had some valuable input. I enjoyed the Caterpillar speech on sustainability the most.

They were good. I especially enjoyed the presentation on globalization.

How well did you relate to the speakers? (continued)

I related decently with the speaker from CAT. I am interested in sustainability, but the other speakers did not spark my interest or talk much about areas that I am really interested in.

Ray gave a good speech that I was able to relate to because it involved the economy.

I thought that the presentations were great. The speakers gave great insight on the future of the industry, as far as the direction its heading and the need for young people to fill jobs.

I believe they did a good job relating to us and how we are the new technology generation.

I felt all the speakers did a great job. Friday morning, the organization was excellent. Bob Smillie's presentation really stood out to me, and I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity for this conference.

I am not a typical student (older student) and though I think all the presenters did a great job, my experience did not identify with any of them.

I think all the speakers did a good job at conveying information and keeping it interesting.

I felt all the speakers relayed there message well. The strongest one, in my opinion, was the one given by Bob Smillie. I will definitely benefit from his "rules to live by".

I thought the speakers did a great job and their insight reinforced the important goals that we as the next generation of industry professionals must uphold in order to keep the business profitable and innovative.