

*Metalcasters
Embracing
the Future*



AFS 2025 Annual Report



**Advocate.
Educate.
Innovate.**

Dear Members and Friends of the American Foundry Society,

Virtually every sector of the manufacturing economy depends on the highly engineered castings produced by modern foundries. As the U.S. government increases its focus on defense readiness, economic growth, energy dominance, infrastructure modernization and reindustrialization, castings will play an even more important role.

The theme of the 2025 AFS Annual Report is “Metalcasters Embracing the Future.” Throughout the year, and into 2026, there are numerous examples of foundries doing exactly that through their involvement in AFS and in their daily operations. Many of these initiatives and endeavors are highlighted in the pages that follow.

We thank you for your involvement in AFS and look forward to another period of impactful activity in the year ahead. If you are not already involved in AFS, we invite you to join us and partner with us on our advocacy, education and innovation initiatives.

Warm regards,



Doug Kurkul
CEO, American Foundry Society

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Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing for the Foundry

In 2025, AFS accelerated its work to help metalcasting leaders bring Industry 4.0 principles and practices to North America’s foundries. The new AFS Institute Course “Introduction to Industry 4.0” debuted, giving metalcasters hands-on exposure to digital process monitoring, automation opportunities, and data-driven decision-making tools.

Building on this momentum, the AFS Industry 4.0 Committee is planning the 2026 Industry 4.0 Conference in Minnesota, which will integrate emerging technologies, case studies, inspirational speakers and implementation pathways tailored for metalcasting operations. This effort reinforces AFS’s commitment to preparing the workforce for a rapidly evolving manufacturing landscape, using innovation and technology to improve productivity, profitability, and worker safety. Evaluating and implementing technology today is the key to remaining highly competitive and sustainable tomorrow.

“The AFS Quarterly Metalcasters Outlook Survey shows 96 percent of foundries will make capital investments in 2026,” noted AFS CEO Doug Kurkul. “Investments related to automation and smart manufacturing will be among the leading categories.”



Industry professionals working with Raspberry Pi temperature sensors at the new Introduction to Industry 4.0 course October 29, 2025.

Artificial Intelligence



Nationally renowned AI expert Kevin Surace delivering his keynote address on Artificial Intelligence at the Foundry Leadership Summit at the Nemaocolin Resort in Pennsylvania, September 23, 2025.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming knowledge access and operational performance across every industry. In 2025, at CastExpo, AFS launched the popular Peters-Robison Library Advanced AI Search tool. It was used 1,040 times in the first eight months. It allows members to receive answers to complex technical questions with citations by quickly identifying relevant resources across more than 18,000 available articles. All members have access to this resource as part of their membership benefits to derive insights, summarize complex research, and locate supporting documentation faster than ever. Usage has grown since launch as members discover the value and speed this tool brings to information and data gathering.

At the 2025 Foundry Leadership Summit, renowned technologist Kevin Surace delivered a lively keynote on the future of AI in manufacturing, emphasizing digital resilience, workforce evolution, and practical adoption strategies. Also in 2025, the AFS AI Subcommittee was integrated into the Industry 4.0 Committee chaired by Zach Meadows (EC&S) to support and coordinate related initiatives.

High-Impact Technical Resources

AFS technical resources reached new milestones in 2025:

- The groundbreaking AFS 5-Year Digitization Initiative will soon bring AFS's industry-leading technical materials to mobile devices on the foundry floor via a subscription model. These technical books will be supplemented with video demonstrations and key web links, making it much easier and faster to access AFS technical resources.
- The AFS Library uploaded its 18,000th digitized article, now enhanced with AI search and summarization features. A total of 11,470 articles were downloaded in 2025 and more articles are being added in 2026.
- The International Journal of Metalcasting, edited by Thomas Prucha, expanded from four to six annual issues. The number of articles published in 2025 was 240.

- Casting Connection strengthens peer-to-peer knowledge exchange by empowering members to ask and answer questions, share solutions, and learn from industry colleagues in real time. Using a new platform adopted in 2024, Casting Connection use surged. It is also an invaluable resource to AFS committees.
- The Casting Alloy Data Search (CADS) supports engineers, designers, and production teams with searchable updated alloy data, detailed casting process pedigree information, offering you, the user, a higher level of confidence. CADS data is gathered from AFS research projects as well as data from U.S.-based foundries and other research organizations.
- Members-Only Webinars: AFS hosted 45 webinars in 2025, providing insight to more than 2,000 registrants.

These and other industry-leading resources ensure that AFS members have the most comprehensive and easily accessible knowledge repository in the industry.

Fighting for Metalcasters on Public Policy

AFS and its members delivered significant advocacy wins in 2025, strengthening the operating environment for metalcasters. These wins include:

- **Victory on Tax Law** – preserving provisions that support manufacturing investment and preventing what would have been the largest tax hike in U.S. history.
- **Victory on Waters of the US** – protecting foundries from unnecessary regulatory burdens and supporting commonsense guidelines to make sure our vital industry remains strong.
- **Victory on Adding Copper to the Federal Critical Minerals List** – helps to boost domestic supply chain resilience and supporting casting markets.
- **Combating Overseas Trade Cheats** – continued AFS leadership to address unfair imports and maintain a level playing field for metalcasters.

Members engaged directly with policymakers during the annual AFS Government Affairs Fly-In, held in June demonstrating the power and impact of a unified industry voice. Dynamic speakers covered topics including tax, trade/tariffs, deregulatory efforts -including the latest on

PM2.5, energy and more. Attendees also heard from Rep. Rudy Yakym (IN-2) and Unleash Prosperity co-founder Steve Moore. Steve resigned from Heritage last month. AFS Congressional Champion Award recipients included Sen. Katie Britt (AL), Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX-6), Rep. Greg Murphy (NC-3), and Rep. Lloyd Smucker (PA-11).



Attendees of the 2025 Government Affairs Fly-In posing with Sen. Katie Britt (AL) one of the four winners of the Metalcasting Industry Congressional Champion Award.

Research and Innovation

AFS research continued to drive progress in metalcasting science, performance, and competitiveness. Funding levels have risen more than 100 percent in the past two years. Key work in 2025 included:

- **Aluminum Casting Performance Initiative** – \$4 million of AFS-spearheaded research advancing understanding of aluminum alloy behavior and improving casting reliability across high-performance applications.
- **America Makes Projects** – contributing to national innovation priorities in digital manufacturing and additive processes.
- **Rapid Cast Parts Initiative** – expanding research into fast-turnaround casting solutions to support supply chain resilience and domestic manufacturing needs.

- **Additive Manufacturing Standards** – helping shape emerging industry standards to ensure quality, repeatability, and broader adoption of AM technologies to further innovation.
- **The IJMC-FEF Student Research Competition** – empowering top undergraduate college students to showcase their metalcasting research projects at Metalcasting Congress and earn scholarships for their hard work, another way that AFS is shaping the future.

Through partnerships with leading universities, laboratories, industry and engineering experts, AFS and its members continue to push the boundaries of applied research in metalcasting. An extensive slate of research projects are underway in 2026. Total AFS research commitments now exceed \$8 million.

Environmental, Health & Safety

AFS provided advanced EHS leadership year-around across the industry through new tools and programming:

- The 5th edition of the “AFS Health & Safety Guides” debuted in the fall. Completed with the guidance of the AFS Safety & Health Committee chaired by Mickey Hannum (McWane), the manual is a vital foundry resource reflecting new Federal OSHA regulations and improved information on hazards and best management practices.
- A special section of Modern Casting was dedicated to foundry safety.
- Some 150 industry representatives participated in the annual EHS Conference held in October in Wisconsin. Topics included air quality, permitting, information requests, environmental Q&As, EHS staffing and more. The group also enjoyed a tour of Badger Mining and bestowing several EHS technical awards including the Safe Year Awards.
- Quarterly EPA and OSHA webinars featuring AFS's Washington-based policy advocates kept members informed of ever-evolving rules, reporting requirements, and enforcement trends. With so much at stake, these are often among AFS's most well-attended webinars.

These efforts help metalcasters maintain safe, compliant, and efficient operations.

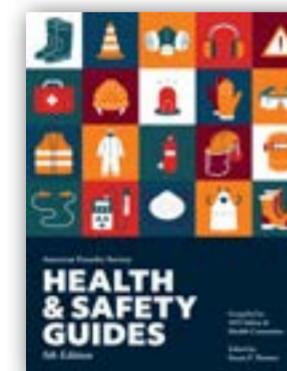


Photo of the highly attended annual EHS Conference held in October in Michigan.

Training for Excellence in Metalcasting

Hundreds of foundries, OEMs, and industry suppliers rely on the AFS Institute each year to train and develop their employees. In fact, the Institute has trained 92,446 industry professionals since 1957.

In 2025, 627 industry professionals received training, up from 623 in 2024 and 407 in 2023. Moreover, Foundry E-Learning subscribing plants has skyrocketed from 55 to 98 since 2021.

Other 2025 highlights included:

- Formation of the AFS Education & Training Task Force.
- Conducting and analyzing the Biennial Workforce Survey in cooperation with FEF.
- Development and presentation of the new “Industry 4.0” course.
- Updates to classroom-course and Foundry E-Learning curriculum.
- Development of plans and staffing to introduce an exam-and-certificate program for course bundles in early 2026.

In 2026, thanks to the leadership of AFS President David Gilson (SinterCast), the Institute will develop a roadmap for the 2026-2030 time period to ensure that state-of-the-art training is always available.



AFS staff Shelby Goldman and Bo Wallace helping registrants make their first casting with the Foundry-in-a-box kit this past July at Introduction to Metalcasting course.



Foundry industry professionals meeting online for the Live Online Gating and Riser Design 201 course this past November.

Members-Only Foundry & Plant Tours

No organization in North America sponsors more foundry tours than AFS. Throughout 2025, AFS members gained firsthand access to leading operations through a series of foundry and plant tours across the country, offering valuable insights into new technologies, production practices, workforce strategies, and facility modernization efforts.

These members-only tours are a hallmark of AFS committee programming, giving members a unique, on-the-floor perspective on various foundry processes and innovations in action. The following list does not include plant tours hosted by AFS's 35 regional chapters. Plants visited through AFS National include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • MTI-American Colloid | • Tyler Union |
| • Gartland Foundry | • Charlotte Pipe and Foundry |
| • University of Northern Iowa | • Kohler |
| • MTI-American Colloid Co. | • G&W Electric |
| • Howell Foundry | • Hensley Industries |
| • Voxeljet | • ME Global |
| • BCI Solutions | • Eagle Alloy |
| • Mueller Co. | • Betz Industries |
| • Hoosier Pattern | • O'Fallon Castings |
| • Badger Mining | • University of WI – Milwaukee |
| • Purdue University | • Missouri S&T |

These tours are sponsored by AFS's 10 technical divisions, three management divisions and two shared interest groups.



Sen. Charles Grassley (IA) tours Clow Valve foundry with Mark Willett and Dean Markle.



AFS Vice President Ben Yates meeting with the Washington chapter.

Shared Interest Groups: Women in Metalcasting and AFS Young Professionals

Focused on the future, the two AFS Shared Interest Groups continued their work to build community, mentorship, and leadership pathways within the industry.

Women in Metalcasting (WIM) hosted networking events, professional development programs, and conference sessions that elevated women's perspectives and career growth. WIM sponsored session at CastExpo 2025 featured Lisa Ryan of Grategy, sharing actionable strategies for fostering diversity, strengthening leadership, and creating a workplace culture that supports women's success in the industry.

Debbie Eckmeter (Roberts Sinto) received the 2025 Women in Metalcasting Award for Excellence. With an incredible 46-year career, Debbie has been a driving force in her company's development and success.



Debbie Eckmeter (Roberts Sinto) receiving the Women in Metalcasting Award for Excellence at the Women in Metalcasting Dinner during Castexpo 2025.

She began her journey in 1977 as a clerk/typist and steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility, ultimately reaching the VP level, leaving a lasting impact on the industry, from implementing critical ERP systems to shaping the company's operations and culture.

AFS Young Professionals held their annual meeting in October with nearly 60 attendees. The event included exclusive foundry tours at Betz Industries and Eagle Alloy. The Keynote Speaker, Brenda Meeker, provided new insights and perspectives into change management and how to support others during transformational change. Two networking events offered plenty of time for making new contacts. The ongoing programming connects and empowers early-career, ensuring that the metalcasting industry has a strong, connected, and diverse talent pipeline.



Metalcasters from across the country gathered in Grand Rapids, MI, for two days of connection, learning, and leadership development at the annual 2025 AFS Young Professionals Annual Meeting this past October.

CastExpo 2025

CastExpo 2025 welcomed 4,689 attendees to Atlanta, from April 12-15. Foundries, suppliers, service providers, casting buyers, design engineers, academia, FEF students, and more—representing 36 countries and all casting specialties—flooded show floor aisles, lecture halls, and special events, all aimed toward the knowledge transfer and advancement of the \$52 billion metalcasting industry.

CastExpo hosted 390 exhibiting companies with over 85,000 sq. ft. AFS continues to receive an outpouring of first-hand reports from exhibitors who garnered large volumes of leads. Members returned home with fresh technology insights, as well as strategies for adopting automation, increasing efficiencies, and implementing further environmental, health, and safety improvements.



Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Dawes giving her Saturday Keynote, "Success is a Journey, Not a Destination" at CastExpo 2025. Every audience member got to see the gold medal first-hand.

CastExpo 2025 offered over 90 hours of educational content from 134 speakers. Attendees enjoyed inspiration aplenty with CastExpo's all-star line up of keynote speakers. These included Dominique Dawes (3-time Olympic Gymnast, Olympic Gold medalist, and the first African American gymnast to qualify for the Olympic games), retired Rear Admiral Scott Moore, Hoyt Memorial Lecturer Frank Headington, and Harry Moser (Founder of the Reshoring Initiative).

CastExpo 2025 was a resounding success but it's not too soon to register for Metalcasting Congress 2026 coming to Grand Rapids, Michigan next April 14-16 at the DeVos Place Convention Center.



Commander Scott Moore giving his Sunday Keynote, "Principles for Leading High-Performance Teams" at CastExpo 2025 in Atlanta.



Mueller Company took top honors winning both Casting of the year and Newcomer in the Casting Source Magazine 2025 Casting of the Year competition with their Monolithic Bypass casting.



AFS Past President Angela Schmeisser (St. Marys Foundry, Inc.) introducing the AFS Board members at the 2025 Volunteer Leadership Awards Luncheon.



View of the showfloor at CastExpo 2025

Growing Your Business With AFS

The AFS Corporate Member Advantage provides numerous ways for foundries to grow sales, build their brand, attract new employees, and sharply reduce costs.

Freight Savings and Logistics Solutions

With AFS's partnership with Worldwide Express newly established in 2025, AFS members get access to exclusive shipping benefits, including discounted rates, a wide carrier network, specialized transportation services, real-time tracking, customs support, and dedicated account/claims support.

Endorsed Insurance and Risk Management

A comprehensive program covering such areas as property and casualty, workers' compensation, directors and officers liability (D & O), safety and risk control, and claims management. The program is offered through our partner, Cottingham & Butler.

Energy Solutions

The comprehensive, competitive and cost-effective energy solutions package from AFS partner Environ Energy includes utility bill auditing, identification of refund opportunities, competitive rate assessments, advanced energy procurement assistance, contract reviews, electric conservation programs and alternative energy options.

Design Solutions

AFS Design Solutions, in partnership with Product Development Analysis LLC, covers all facets of casting design, including failure analysis, reverse engineering, process design and simulation, product performance test evaluations, proto-typing and production sourcing.

Employment Law Update

Covering key developments in OSHA actions, labor regulations, record-keeping mandates, and new employment legislation, these digital reports, prepared by leading U.S. labor law firm Fisher Phillips, explain how regulatory changes impact employers and offer practical compliance strategies.

Wage & Salary Surveys

AFS publishes benchmarking information on wages and benefits at North American foundries to help metalcasters attract and retain talent, negotiate union contracts and manager/executive salaries, and inform employers about standard compensation practices.

Visit www.afsinc.org/Business to learn more.

Connecting AFS Members with Thought Leaders

Throughout 2025, AFS members engaged directly with influential thinkers and leaders who brought expertise from both inside and outside manufacturing, including:



Scott Moore

Expert on Building and Leading "No-Fail" Teams and United States Navy SEAL Rear Admiral (retired)



Dominique Dawes

3-Time Olympic Gymnast, Olympic Gold Medalist; First African American Gymnast to Qualify for the Olympic Games



Stephen Moore

Unleash Prosperity co-founder



Marc Thiessen

Past Chief White House Speechwriter, Fox News Contributor



Frank Headington

2025 Hoyt Lecture speaker, Retired, Neenah Foundry and American Foundry Society

These thought leaders provide perspective, inspiration, and strategic insight—helping our industry's leaders remain informed, resilient, and forward-looking. Combined with other technical and management speakers, they further the value of involvement in AFS.

High-Impact Regional Chapter Activity

The Society's 35 regional chapters had an exceptionally active year. AFS Board members and staff participated in events hosted by regional chapters. Regionals were held in Wisconsin and Tennessee. In addition, an all-day chapter event was held in Washington state. Regional chapters help advance the AFS mission and provide networking at the local level.



AFS Senior Vice President of Metalcasting Technical Services Brian Began presenting at the Wisconsin Chapter meeting.

Recognizing Metalcasting Excellence

AFS is powered by the passion and volunteerism of its thousands of members. In 2025, AFS recognized the essential contributions of:

- AFS Divisions, committees, subcommittees and shared interest groups that advance technical, research, and industry priorities. Volunteers remain dedicated to providing countless hours of support for technical research initiatives and events.

- Regional Chapters building local networks and fostering grassroots community. Chapter involvement is strengthened by engaging new generation of metalcasters and leaders.
- Student Chapters developing the next generation of metalcasting leaders.

Their efforts strengthen the foundation of the entire organization.



Recipient of the AFS Award of Scientific Merit, Paul David Paulsen (Furness – Newburge, Inc.).



Recipient of the AFS Service Citation, Jay Morrison (Carpenter Brothers, Inc.).



Recipient of the AFS Service Citation, Colbey Solis (Oil City Iron Works).



Recipient of the Peter L. Simpson Gold Medal, Bruce Dienst (Norican Group North America).



Recipient of the William H. McFadden Gold Medal, Robert Scholz (TRC Environmental Corporation).

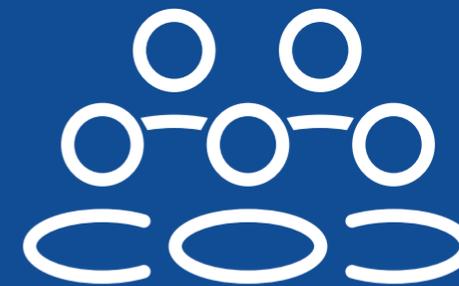
BY THE NUMBERS

82
AFS
Regional
- & -
Student
Chapters



45 live
webinars
presented
in 2025

1,115
Corporate
Members



5,798
Individual
Members

18,000+
Articles in the AFS Peters-Robison
Metalcasting Library

5,044+
e-Learning
modules
completed in
2025

13
AFS
Divisions

42
AFS
Committees

402 exhibitors at
CastExpo 2025

4.7k
attendees at
CastExpo 2025

38
courses
offered by the
AFS Institute

16
Task
Groups

92,446+
Students trained by
the AFS Institute
since 1957



2
Shared
Interest
Groups

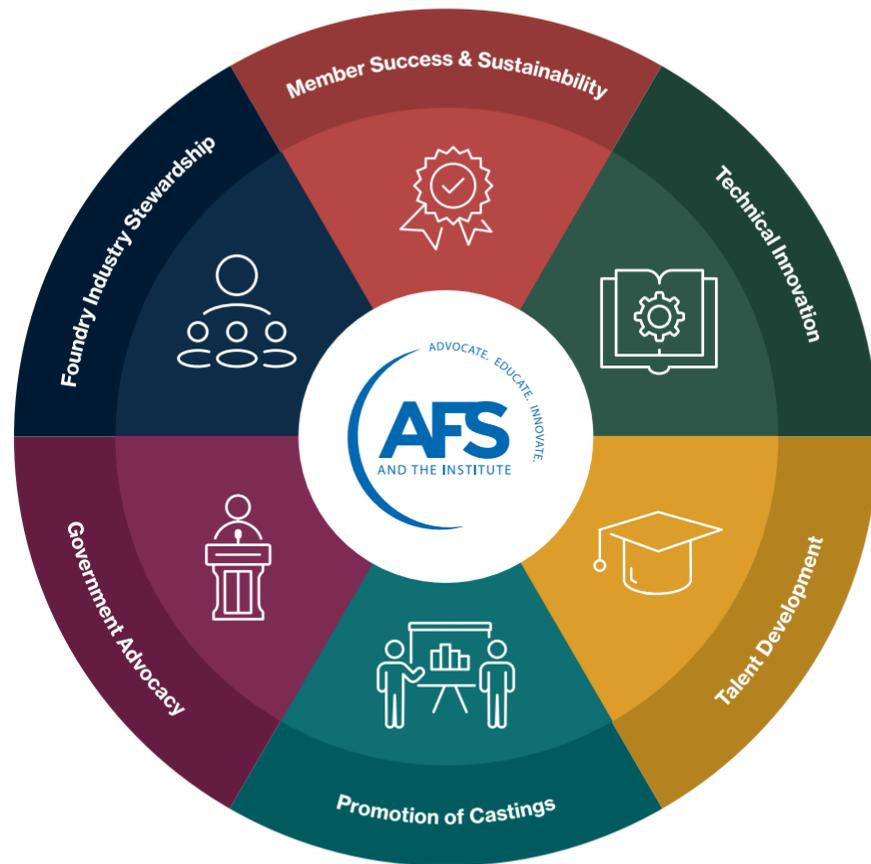
AFS Mission Statement

The mission of the American Foundry Society is to advance the success of its members and the metalcasting industry through advocacy, education, and innovation.

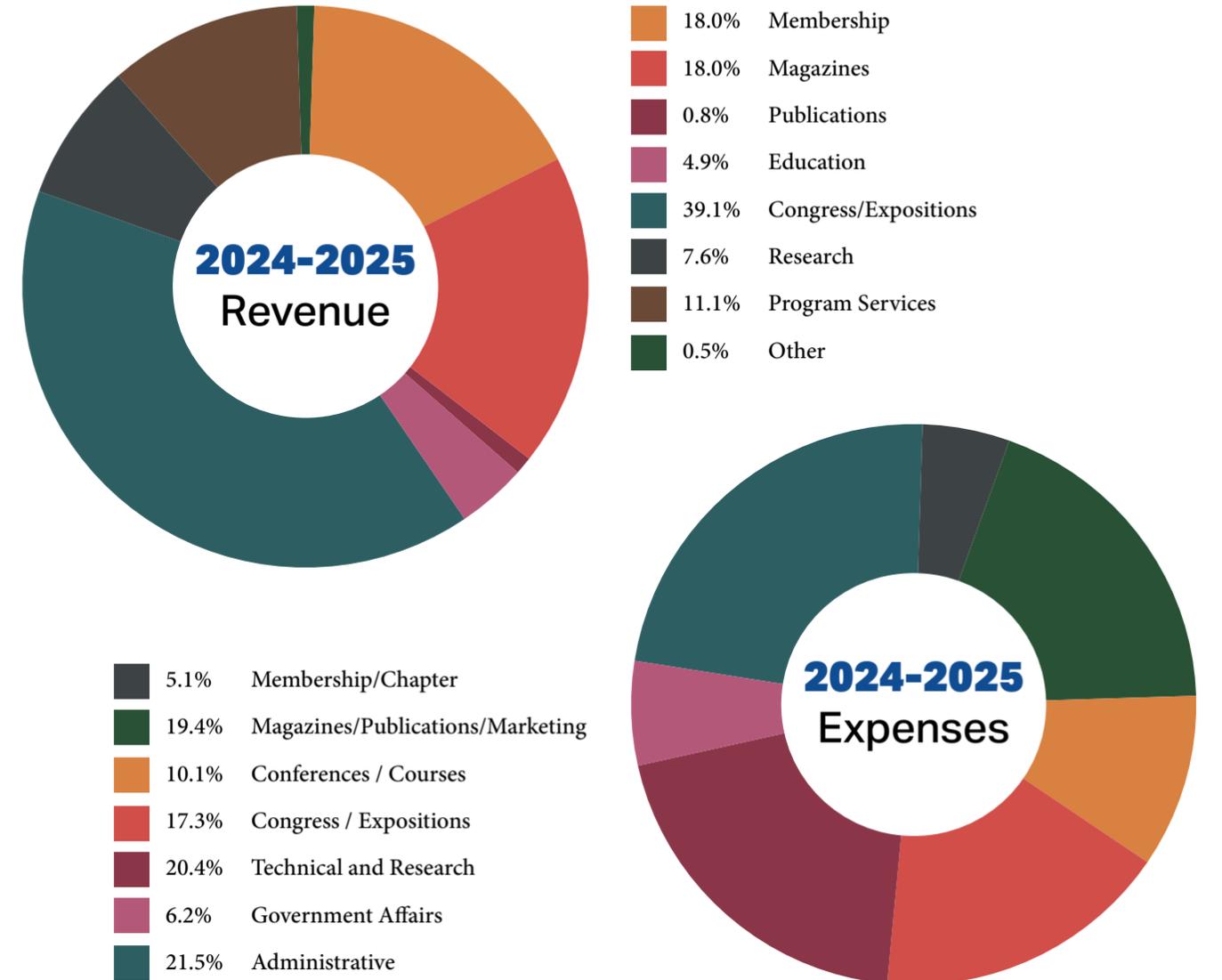
AFS Vision Statement

AFS will be recognized worldwide by industry stakeholders as the leading voice and resource on technical, management, and advocacy priorities pertaining to the metalcasting industry.

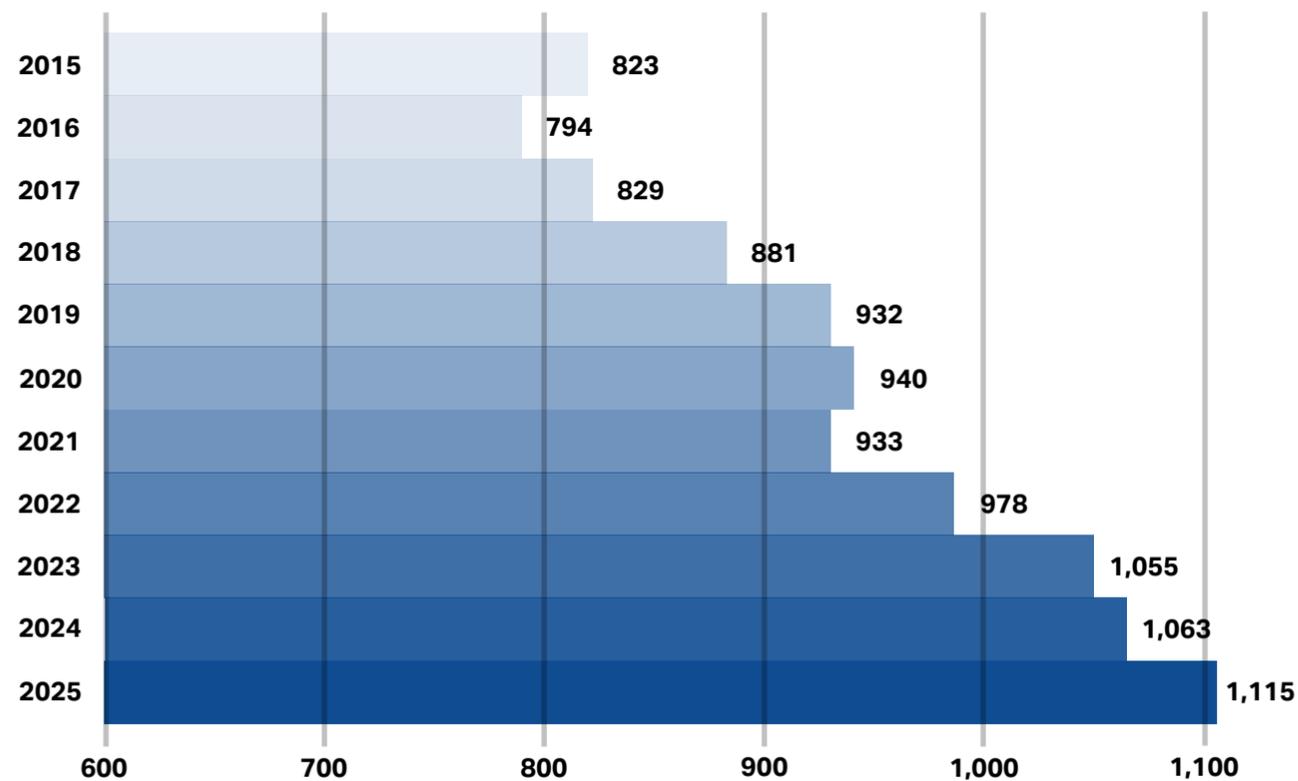
AFS Strategic Plan Pillars



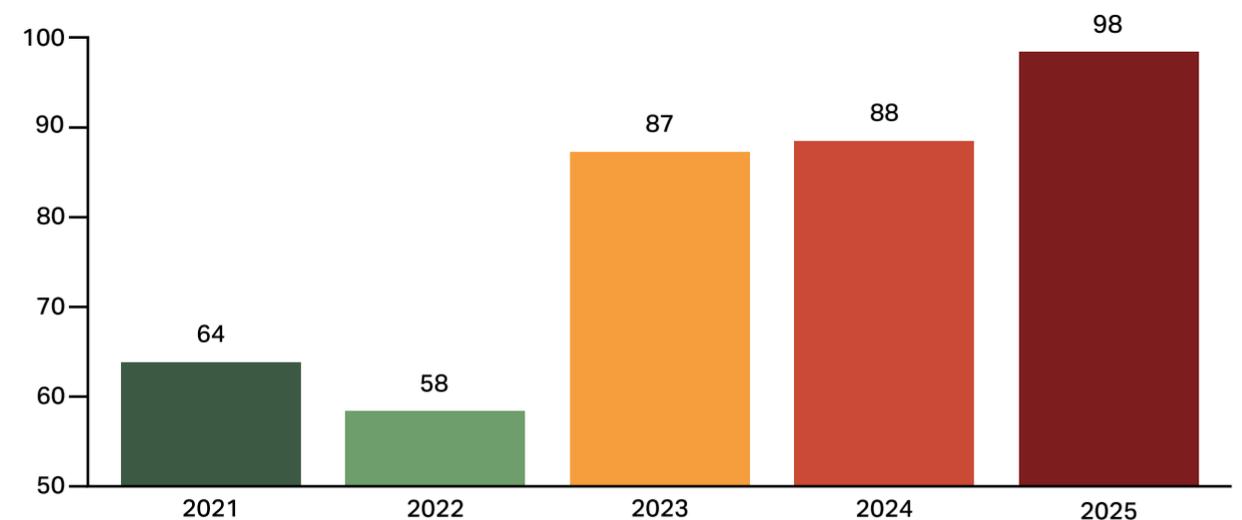
2024 - 2025 AFS and the Institute Financials



2015 - 2025 AFS Corporate Memberships



Foundry e-Learning Subscriptions by Year



2025 – 2026 Officers & Board Members



David Gilson

President
Sales and Marketing Director
SinterCast



John Lancaster

Vice President
Plant Director
General Motors



George Boyd Jr.

2nd Vice President
CEO and President
Goldens' Foundry & Machine Company



Angela Schmeisser

Immediate Past President
Director
St. Marys Foundry, Inc.



Doug Kurkul

CEO
American Foundry Society

Director Class 2022 - 2026



Alan Brink

President
Spring City Electrical



Michael Halsband

President & CEO
Roberts Sinto Corporation



Bill Nestel

Plant Manager
Lawton Standard

Director Class 2023 - 2027



Matt Cook

Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President
Amsted Rail



Brett Fisher

President
Foundry Solutions & Design, LLC



Earl Miller

Director of Engineering and Innovation
Hiler Industries



Amanda Torkelson

Vice President
Alu-Bra Foundry, Inc.

Director Class 2024 - 2028



Susan Bear

Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Grede Castings



Bob Braun

President-Foundry, Emeritus
Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry



Kelley Kerns

Director, New Business Development
HA International, LLC



Paul Leonard

Engineering Manager
Barron Industries

Director Class 2025 - 2029



Kristin Newberry

President
US Aluminum Castings



Todd Pagel

Vice President of Operations
Waupaca Foundry Inc.



Dr. Sam Ramrattan

Foundry Educational Foundation Key Professor
Western Michigan University



Sid Tankersley

President
American Foam Cast Inc.

AFS Professional Staff

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Chief Executive Officer

Accounting & Finance

Chris Oswald
Vice President of Accounting & Finance

Valerie Stramaglia
Senior Associate Director of Accounting & Finance

Connie Cain
Staff Accountant

Business Development

Ben Yates
Vice President of Business Development

Kimberly Farrugia
Senior Business Development Manager

Kim Phelan
Contract Magazine Editor

Robin McCartney
Graphic Designer

Fabio Cavaliere
Advertising Sales Manager - West

Tom Lazar
Advertising Sales Manager - East

Marketing

John Belmont
Senior Director of Marketing & Strategic Communications

Tyler Buchenot
Senior Creative Strategist

Human Resources & Administrative Services

Cathy Potts
Vice President of Human Resources & Administrative Services

Government Affairs

Jeff Hannapel
The Policy Group

Stephanie Salmon
Vice President Government Affairs

Information Technology & Operations

Mike Lakas
Senior Vice President of Information Technology, Operations, & Trade Shows

Rich Fett
Senior Information Systems Manager

Katie Matticks
Senior Project Manager

Deana Barrueta
IT Support & Facilities Manager

Customer Service

Barbara Jackowski
Senior Customer Service Manager

Carmen Rodriguez
Receptionist/Customer Service

Robert Lowery
Mailroom/Warehouse Coordinator

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Director of Training Solutions

Shelby Goldman
Assistant Director of Training Solutions

Chris Pisney
Manager of Course Development and Certificate Programs

Technical, Research, & Library Services

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Senior Vice President of Metalcasting Technical Services

Travis Frush
Technical Director of Metalcasting Services

Mary Ann Cahoon
Technical Publications Editor

Jackson Piontek
Research Associate of Metalcasting Technical Services

Kimberly Perna
Senior Program Manager - Technical Services

Bo Wallace
Assistant Technical Director of Metalcasting Services

Thomas Prucha
Contract Journal Editor

Environmental, Health & Safety

George Curry, Jr.
Technical Director - EHS

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