A STEEL FABRICATOR CALLED THE OTHER DAY WITH A PRETTY COMMON PROBLEM. He had just hired a new employee, fresh out of school, and he wanted to familiarize him with the structural steel industry. Did AISC have anything to help?

As it turns out, we have a lot; it’s just not always obvious where to find it. As with many questions, the place to start looking is AISC’s website, www.aisc.org. Under the education tab, we offer access to a series of teaching aids. These PowerPoint presentations and videos are chiefly intended to help engineering, architectural and construction management students, but they’re really great for anyone who wants to know more about steel design and construction.

You can watch a video showing the creation of a steel building—from concept to detailing to fabrication to erection. And you can view a presentation on steel and sustainability or videos specifically about detailing, erection and production. There are dozens of resources that can give a new employee a firm foundation to begin exploring the structural steel design and construction industry.

Another great learning opportunity is viewing presentations from NASCC: The Steel Conference. We’ve recorded most presentations (since 2008) and made them available at no charge to AISC members. You can view hundreds of presentations at www.aisc.org/proceedings.

Of course, nothing beats attending The Steel Conference in person. It’s a fantastic place to learn more and interact with others in the industry. The next conference is scheduled for March 22–24 in San Antonio, and we’re expecting more than 4,500 attendees, including structural engineers, fabricators, erectors, detailers, educators and architects. The sessions focus on both technical and business topics, and networking is a huge draw. Registration opens December 12 (make sure to register early, as fees increase $10 each week) and you can view the advance program at www.aisc.org/nascc.

I hope to see you in San Antonio!