

Kuldeep Mistry: 'How STLE advanced my career'



Dr. Kuldeep Kishore Mistry
The Timken Company

STLE's unofficial motto is big enough to make a difference, small enough to be personal.

For proof of the adage, look no further than Timken product-development specialist Kuldeep Mistry, who credits STLE membership with leading him to two jobs, helping him develop a personal network of industry contacts and giving him the opportunity to work with tribology's premier thought leaders.

Mistry first connected with STLE as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Leeds. The industrial sponsor on his doctoral work was STLE Past President Martin Webster, who encouraged Mistry to attend STLE annual meetings.

"In 2008 I became an STLE member and attended my first annual meeting in Cleveland. I was mesmerized by a meeting that not only gave me the opportunity to present my studies to esteemed tribology researchers but also was a great networking forum."

STLE networking soon proved valuable to the early careerist. "My involvement with STLE led to a job at Argonne National Laboratory where I had the prestigious opportunity to work with Dr. Ali Erdemir on Department of Energy-funded projects." Erdemir, one of tribology's most honored and respected researchers, served as STLE's 2016 president.

As Mistry's career progressed, the benefits of STLE membership followed.

"In 2012 I was seeking an opportunity to lead industrial tribology projects, and Ryan D. Evans, STLE's current treasurer, helped me navigate my desired career path. Again, my interaction with STLE led to a job, this time with The Timken Co."

The next step on Mistry's STLE journey was his biggest and most rewarding—volunteering.

"STLE's Canton Section had been inactive for almost five years," Mistry says. "So I began revamping the group by interesting tribology students, engineers and researchers. This gave me tremendous opportunities for professional development."

With Mistry as chair, STLE Canton received STLE's Outstanding Section Award in 2016 and 2017 for activities that included technical meetings, local scholarships, industry sponsorships and STEM programs. The Canton Section won the honor again at STLE's 2019 Annual Meeting in Nashville.

Nashville also is where Mistry began a three-year term as a director on STLE's board. It's the type of partnership between volunteer, employer and society that STLE is celebrating during its 75th Anniversary.

Mistry offers this advice to peers. "Remember, more than half of new positions are found through networking, and it should not begin when you start a job search. STLE is where I met many friends, developed a professional network, learned about job opportunities and acquired knowledge."

Mistry's final thoughts to lubrication professionals? "I encourage everyone to get involved with STLE at whatever level, topic or interest," he says.

You can reach Kuldeep Mistry at kuldeep.mistry@timken.com.

Editor's notes:

- To read the full TLT interview with Kuldeep Mistry, [click here](#).
- For information on STLE membership and how to join, contact membership development manager Jean Furlan at jfurlan@stle.org.
- If you would like to volunteer for STLE service, contact education manager Stefan Carrera at scarrera@stle.org.