

Celebrating 30 Years with Michael Chu, Engineering

What is your greatest memory at CSI?

I have been working at this same facility since 1974... since it was Kaiser. When it shut down, I felt like I had lost a family. When I returned in 1984, I was so happy to see so many familiar faces. I felt like the family was back together again, and I felt privileged to be part of the team that was going to help build up CSI, what has now become a great steel mill.

One of my greatest memories, the one that stirs the most emotions for me, is the personal dedication of all the employees to get this place up and running with minimal resource — how determined each person was to work towards a common goal. The level of knowledge that each person brought played a major role in the success of CSI being able to start production in such a short amount of time.

When CSI first started up, the Engineering Department only had 7 employees. With help from Paul Hawkins and Mark Searle, who were both high school students at the time, we were able to find enough drafting tables, regular tables, desks, chairs, partitions and other equipment to get the department started. I was responsible for installing, inspecting and certifying all the buildings, cranes, compressors, and new steam boilers.

Since that first day, we have been growing and improving non-stop.



Southwest Steel Coil

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Southwest Steel Coil is also looking for a wider selection of product availability from CSI, such as deep drawing steel. CSI produces drawing steel, but deep drawing steel would enable Southwest Steel Coil to sell a product that would allow for even more formability in the manufactured product, and expand their sales.

“One of the ways we serve our customers is to assist them in developing their concepts with steel specifications that will make the product without waste,” said Hayden. “We have resources from our suppliers, and we love to solve problems,” he added. “We’ll work with Southwest Steel Coil to find solutions where we can.”

Some possible new lines for supply are automotive shoe brakes, lawn mower decks, washers and dryers. Other product manufacturing that Southwest Steel Coil supplies includes lighting fixtures, heating and air conditioning equipment, and electronic cabinetry, such as the chassis for cable convertors. Industrial cabinetry from large storage containers to as small as first aid kit boxes is also produced by their customers.



Camden is also active in organizations that work to improve the business environment in the Southwest region. A member of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance and the Border Industrial Association, he serves on the Board of Directors of both associations.



Governor Martinez officially opened the expansion by placing a CSI coil using one of Southwest Steel Coil's 30-ton overhead cranes in the new space.

With a dedication to expanding not only their business, but the economy of the region, by providing their customers with the best options for their product lines and delivering to meet their operating requirements, Southwest Steel Coil is the leading steel service center in southern New Mexico, the El Paso and Juarez regions.