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It is hard to believe it has already been a year, and I am sitting down to write what will be my last President's Message. As I think about the past year, I am encouraged about the future of this organization and am extremely optimistic about the progress and continued growth and success of RCI, Inc.

Although the "future is so bright," I think there are many hurdles to overcome and challenges that lie ahead, and we will all need to continue to work through these and support RCI to ensure its continued success. Last March when I became president, I addressed the membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Members. I commented on the RCI staff's e-mail signature blocks, which ask, "How else may RCI help you today?" and I challenged everyone to join me and ask themselves, "How else may I help RCI today?" Throughout this year, I have absolutely seen firsthand that so many accepted the challenge, helped, and gave back to RCI.

Throughout the year, we have seen huge strides in RCI's advocacy for our organization, its professional registrations, its members, and beyond. The Advocacy Committee has nearly doubled in size and is working with its largest budget ever to promote RCI and its members in many different aspects of our industry.

We have seen steady growth in our organization while other similar professional and industry organizations are losing members at a rapid pace. RCI in all aspects and at all levels has been looking toward the next generation of members, as we have seen many chapters give scholarships to local college and university students in the

architectural, construction, and engineering disciplines to encourage their participation and inform them about our organization. In addition, the RCI Foundation continues to give scholarships to like-minded students to attend our convention, as well as continuing to fund industry research.

In recent years, we have seen new chapter formation and the development of a record number of branches. Having attended meetings at some of these newly formed chapters and branches this past year in each of the seven regions of RCI, I have been encouraged to see the excitement as members participate in our organization at the grassroots level.

RCI has rolled out its latest credential—the Registered Exterior Wall Observer (REWO)—as a result of us listening to our membership telling us they felt a need for such a registration. I look forward to this credential being as recognized in the near future as our RRO credential has become. And while I could go on about each and every committee, chapter, region, branch, task force, staff member, etc., and the hard work and dedication I have seen in each of them, I just do not have the space. But it is truly amazing.

As I finish my year as president, I am in awe of the dedication, hard work, accomplishments, and contributions of our members and staff. However, as I leave, I will still challenge our members to give back to this great organization to continue its success as the leading professional organization in our industry. I promise you that I will! I feel truly blessed and honored for the opportunity to have served as your president. I hope you allow me the honor again in the future.