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The Year Ahead

HELLO, EVERYONE. I am very excited and honored to be serving as the president of IIBEC for 2024-2025. It's been a few years since I last wrote a column in this space, and I am glad to once again have this opportunity to discuss what's going on at IIBEC—our accomplishments, our goals, and our challenges.

As I write this column, we have just wrapped up this year's very successful IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show in Phoenix, Arizona. It was great, as always, to see so many of our members from all over the United States, Canada, and beyond, and to take part in cutting-edge technical education, an amazing trade show, and the many other outstanding events that make our convention such an amazing experience.

One of the highlights of the 2024 convention was the opportunity to spend time with Amy Peevey, the first female president in IIBEC's history, as she wrapped up her presidency. I personally want to thank Amy for her steadfast leadership and dedication. She helped this organization tremendously, and I have learned so much from her.

IIBEC is fresh off the development of our new strategic plan, and now we are turning to the hard work of making that plan a success for IIBEC's members and the building enclosure profession. The four main pillars of the strategic plan are:

- *Value of IIBEC.* IIBEC is committed to being the premier technical, educational, and networking resource of the building enclosure profession.
- *Advocacy.* IIBEC will advocate for consultant members at all levels of government.
- *Credentials.* IIBEC is the organization that will lead the industry in building enclosure consulting credentials.
- *Knowledge transfer.* IIBEC wants to empower members to achieve and sustain business and professional success.

These are big, audacious goals, but I know they are within our reach. For this reason, when Amy

passed the presidential gavel to me at the annual meeting of the members in Phoenix, I committed to working tirelessly for IIBEC as its president, using the strategic plan as our road map.

In my presidential remarks, I also had an "ask" for every IIBEC member—that you join me, the excellent IIBEC staff, and your fellow members in this effort to achieve IIBEC's mission. At its core, IIBEC is a volunteer organization, and we need *you* to volunteer.

I believe that in some way, shape, or form, every IIBEC member can give back to the organization and our community. That belief led me to start volunteering for IIBEC, and it guided me during my first term as IIBEC president in 2016-2017. When I decided to run again for the Executive Committee, we were still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously, that was a tumultuous, uncertain time, and some people jokingly told me I was a "glutton for punishment" for volunteering again for this big responsibility. Those who teased me had a point—based on my past experience and the present-day challenges, I knew that serving again on the Executive Committee would take greater commitment than the first time around. Nevertheless, I felt strongly that my duty to volunteer was more pressing than ever before. I wouldn't be where I am, professionally or personally, without IIBEC. I owe IIBEC a lot, and I welcome the opportunity to pay my debt.

If you are a member or potential member of IIBEC and want to help ensure that our organization thrives, I hope you'll commit to volunteering with us this year—and beyond. I know how busy everyone is, and that what I'm asking of you isn't a small thing. But even if your time is limited, opportunities to get involved await you at the local, regional, and national levels. If those opportunities aren't the right fit for you, let's find another option. Do you have an idea for a new volunteer-driven initiative that will help sustain or transform our association and our profession? Let me know!

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