



By Chris Dawkins, PE  
President

# Why Service Is Its Own Reward

## GREETINGS, IIBEC COMMUNITY!

I hope your spring is off to a great start! I'm pleased to report that IIBEC is well positioned for an outstanding 2025. We are in this advantageous position due to the tireless efforts of many who have preceded us, and for that we are grateful. Our current board, chapter leaders, task forces, committees, and tremendous staff are energized to ensure that we continue to support our membership.

This issue of *IIBEC Interface* is one benefit of our IIBEC membership. We can also access past issues, which provide information and resources relevant to all types of building enclosure projects, via The Hub (<https://iibec.org/hub>). Another key member benefit is the opportunity to participate in IIBEC's local and international education programs. These benefits and the many others we receive as IIBEC members would not be possible without the service of our many volunteers. If you are not already volunteering, I hope that their excellent examples will inspire you to get involved and provide service to our association. Start with a small step if that's what feels right for you. If we each take a single step, that's forward momentum for us all.

If you're still on the fence about becoming a volunteer, maybe I can convince you by noting that participation in IIBEC service is its own kind of member benefit. This may sound like a sales pitch, but I'm simply discussing what I've learned during my 20-plus years with RCI and IIBEC.

Based on my personal experience, I can confidently say that service within IIBEC will enrich your personal practice in several ways. First, participation in IIBEC activities will give you insight into where you stand technically and professionally—by interacting with other members, you will be able to identify your particular strengths, areas where others are stronger than you, what you need to learn, and where you need to grow to round out your practice and better serve your clients. Second, through the process of volunteering, you'll get

to know colleagues and contacts within your community. As you build this network, you'll have opportunities to leverage new, relevant resources and to enter into mutually beneficial strategic partnerships. Third, and best of all, you will form lasting friendships with kindred spirits you find along the way.

Here are a few ways you can pitch in, serve, and make our IIBEC community stronger:

- Volunteer to speak at a chapter event about a topic where you have expertise, or help the chapter book another subject matter expert for a chapter presentation.
- Help your local chapter manage its finances and administration. If you are a small business owner, you can share what you know about issues such as registering a business annually with the secretary of state or other government entities, or tax preparation.
- Be a student host/mentor at the 2025 Building Enclosure Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri, or at the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show in Sacramento, California.
- Join Project Excel as a mentor or a mentee (<https://iibec.org/project-excel>).
- Become an officer on your chapter board, or let your local leadership know that you're available to help in a particular area.
- Collaborate with peers as a member of one of IIBEC's committees or task forces.

This list is just a start. You can find other service options based on your specific locale and personal practice. For more information, check out *The Guide* (<https://iibec.org/the-guide>).

In short, there is absolutely a place for you to serve within our community, and the next act of service that you perform will certainly have a positive impact. Meaningful volunteer service can be built from a series of small, single steps.

Best to you all, and cheers!

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