



**By Chris Dawkins, PE**  
*President*

# Meet Me in St. Louis at This Year's BES

## GREETINGS, IIBEC COMMUNITY!

I hope your summer is going well. Most of us have a lot of work that we want to accomplish during these long, mostly sunny days. At IIBEC, a major focus during this time of year is our upcoming Building Enclosure Symposium (BES), which will be held this year in St. Louis, Missouri, October 26–28. Volunteers and staff are steadfastly putting the finishing touches on what will be an excellent event that is sure to enhance and strengthen our respective practices. I can personally attest that BES has the potential to help us improve our expertise and expand our businesses.

Travel back with me to 1997. At the time, I was based in Raleigh, North Carolina. I'd worked for several years in various roles with the US Navy Civil Engineer Corps, where I managed and used deliverables produced by design consultants. Now, I was a consultant myself, with about four years of consulting experience, and was starting to get my legs under me. My personal practice had been heavily focused on the building enclosure for about two years, and our team was looking to fulfill our continuing education hours (CEHs) for the year. Rick Moore, a friend and associate working in our Charlotte, North Carolina, office suggested that our forensics/enclosures team attend that year's BES in Dallas—and I'm so glad we did. (Thanks, Rick!) That event was my introduction to RCI (now IIBEC), and its depth and value tremendously influenced the trajectory of my career. I had never before attended technical sessions that so successfully blended science and theory with real-world applications. The information I learned was invaluable, but an even greater benefit was the opportunity to strengthen my ties to and within the building enclosure community. After attending that BES in Dallas, I began seeking out and attending as many RCI/IIBEC education events near my locale as I

could. Over time, my involvement and volunteer service with IIBEC grew.

Almost three decades have passed since I attended my first BES, and IIBEC is still delivering the outstanding technical education that we need as practicing consultants to serve our clients and the public. This year, BES will have more than 20 sessions led by experts in our field. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn up to 12 CEHs while learning about best practices, cutting-edge research and technology, and how their peers have tackled both common and unusual challenges in the field. Take a look at the BES program-at-a-glance (<https://bes.iibec.org/program/program-at-a-glance>). I'm sure you'll see sessions relevant to your current work as well as new directions you might want to explore. Notice, also, that the schedule includes plenty of networking opportunities, including time to visit with exhibitors.

One reason that we chose St. Louis as the site for this year's meeting is that it's in the middle of North America, making it accessible to most of us without too much travel time. I hope you will register to attend (<https://bes.iibec.org>). I also hope that many of you will follow the example set by Rick Moore (who remains an active IIBEC member). Please reach out to your colleagues, your mentees, and others in the building enclosure profession, and encourage them to join us in St. Louis. In particular, if they don't know about our community and the great work we do, BES is a terrific way to introduce them to IIBEC.

Cheers, all! If you come to BES, I look forward to seeing you in person. Or call or write/email anytime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Dawkins".

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