



By Chris Dawkins, PE  
President

# Strengthening IIBEC's International Presence

## ¡SALUDE!

As I write this column, Brian Pallasch, Emily Lorenz, Alec Jeffries, and I have just returned from participating in the third annual Mexico Roofing Day, which was held in Guadalajara on November 5 and 6. I'm proud that IIBEC continues to sponsor this amazing conference that supports building enclosure professionals who practice in Mexico and Central America.

I feel thoroughly energized after witnessing the strong desire for "building better and smarter" among the Mexico Roofing Day participants. The 17 educational sessions were well attended, with more than 300 attendees in total, and the program (which is somewhat similar to our annual Building Enclosure Symposium) was aptly developed and run by a team led by Antai Ramos Stevens, RRO, who is a member of the IIBEC community. Antai was also among the conference presenters. She gave a great talk on Day 2 about taking a holistic approach to roof safety.

Seven other IIBEC members were also presenters or panelists and added tremendously to the conference's technical content. On Day 1, Emily Lorenz, PE, F-ACI, started the full day of sessions with a presentation on sustainability consulting practices and protocols. Also on Day 1, Brett Fagan presented on FM 1-52 wind-uplift field testing; John Pohorsky, RRC, led a session on achieving positive drainage with tapered insulation systems; I presented on low-slope roof performance and methodologies to improve resilience and reduce hail damage; and Joe Firmin was part of an expert panel discussing methodologies to improve roofs' resistance to extreme conditions.

The program for Day 2 began with Brian Chamberlain's session on details for improved roof-system performance, and in the afternoon, Angel Alcázar was part of a panel on the roofing

industry in Mexico. We had some fun, too, with a tequila tasting on the first evening and a cocktail hour at the end of the conference, and registration fees for the conference supported a great cause, Ayuda y Solidaridad con las Niñas de la Calle, a Mexico City-based nonprofit that helps at-risk girls and young women by offering social, educational, healthcare, and legal support.

It is clear there is a growing groundswell of support for sustainability, resilience, and quality in the built environment among building enclosure consultants and industry partners in Mexico and Central American countries. IIBEC is excited to help nurture and sustain this groundswell by providing technical resources, educational opportunities, and advocacy for standards that better serve our international clientele and the public.

In addition to Mexico Roofing Day, IIBEC's international presence and reputation for excellence are being bolstered by our Mexico City Branch, the institute's first formal presence in Mexico. This branch is being steadfastly led by Alejandrina Galicia Escobar (who also attended Mexico Roofing Day). I'm happy to report that our Mexico City Branch and IIBEC membership in Mexico continue to grow.

Antai and Alejandrina and their teams demonstrate excellence in volunteerism. Through their service, they are making our overall community stronger, so a "shout-out" to them is in order. Thank you, Antai and Alejandrina, for all that you do!

Best to everyone in the IIBEC community, and thanks for your service. I hope that your holidays are great!

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