



By Chris Dawkins, PE
President

It's Been a Blessing to Serve

GREETINGS, IIBEC COMMUNITY!

Writing this last *IIBEC Interface* column has been more difficult than I thought it would be, as I want to find just the right words to express my gratitude for the positive ways that IIBEC has affected my life and work journey and my ability to serve clients. It has been a blessing to serve over the past several years in a leadership role alongside a strong, talented, and committed team of colleagues who advocate for our profession with wisdom and vision.

Over the past year, I have attempted to focus these columns on the power of volunteerism. Simply put, volunteerism keeps us strong as an association while also providing opportunities for individual growth to those who volunteer. I hope going forward that each of you will find your place of service somewhere within our community and at the appropriate time for your practice. There is indeed a place for you to serve and add to the beauty of our vibrant community. To those of you who have served in the past or are serving now, I offer my deepest thanks.

We had a great 2025 and are set for continued growth and excellence in 2026. There is not enough space here to list all our many accomplishments over the past 12 months, but I want to highlight a few: Our membership grew healthily this year. We added the new IIBEC West Michigan Chapter and the Sacramento Valley Branch under our Northern California Chapter. We now have a certification program accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board under ISO/OEC 17024, and a task force is working to evaluate the future direction of our credentialing programs. Also, both the 2025 International Convention and Trade Show and the 2025 Building Enclosure Symposium set attendance records. Great work, everyone!

Looking forward, Jennifer Hogan will be a tremendous IIBEC president. Jennifer leads with energy, depth, and intelligence. It has been the highest honor getting to serve and work closely with her, Burt Carver, Julie Palmer, and Robért

Hinojosa, and all the steadfast members of the IIBEC Board of Directors.

I am forever thankful to every past IIBEC leader and the many mentors who have taught (and still teach) me so much. Thank you, in particular, to Jim Koontz, Pat Downey, Chip Ward, Sid Hankins, David Hawn, and our most recent past presidents, Mike Clark, Bob Card, Scott Hinesley, Ted Sheridan, Chris Giffin, Amy Peevey, and Robért. Each of you has demonstrated extraordinary servant leadership, and your insightful vision has been invaluable.

Finally, we are tremendously fortunate as an association to have such a dedicated, skilled, and responsive staff team. A roster of IIBEC's talented staff can be found in this issue of *IIBEC Interface* and on the IIBEC website. The next time you interact with a staff member, please thank them for their daily service. IIBEC's staff team is led with excellence by Brian Pallasch, CAE, and Melany Rizzo, CAE. Brian has especially encouraged volunteer leaders and the staff over the past several years to think, lead, and execute strategically, and those efforts have set IIBEC on an outstanding track. Thanks, Brian!

To a person, everyone I have mentioned exemplifies a deep commitment to IIBEC that has benefited all of us and made our professional practices stronger. Thanks, all!

I'll close with a thought that echoes a comment I made at our convention last March. In my spare time, I play a lot of guitar, and one of my favorite songs is James Taylor's "Carolina on My Mind." In that song, the lyric, "with a holy host of others standing around me," perfectly captures the character of our IIBEC community—and I'm so grateful to be here with you.

Best to all of you in your respective practices. I look forward to continuing to serve with you going forward.

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