

Building Enclosure Consultants Rush to Sacramento for the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show

By Christian Hamaker

MORE THAN 1,500 building enclosure consultants and design professionals rushed to Sacramento, California, in March—but not for gold. Instead, the city played host to the building enclosure industry's premier event, the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show.

The show, which ran March 12–15, took place at the SAFE Convention Center. Registration and badge pickup started Wednesday, the same day the IIBEC Board of Directors met to discuss the organization's current health and future plans. Several IIBEC staff members reported to the board on recent membership trends and achievements.



All convention photos are courtesy of Robb Cohen Photography & Video unless otherwise noted.





The kickoff of the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show featured a busy registration desk, the annual Foundations' Golf Tournament, and a well-attended auxiliary seminar. A day of networking and learning was capped by a packed Welcome Reception and hospitality suites.

The day started with an auxiliary seminar, *Reroofing*, presented by Aaron B. Nelson, RBEC, RRO, and IIBEC Region VII Director Stephanie Robinson, PEng. The well-attended, day-long seminar included instructor-led discussion, a summative review, a wrap-up, and time for questions and answers.

Across town, at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex, a spirited Foundations' Golf Tournament unfolded under sunny skies and perfect temperatures for outdoor activities. Sponsored by SOPREMA and Performance Roof Systems, the annual event concluded with a luncheon and awards ceremony, during which numerous prizes were given out across a number of different categories.

Proceeds from the event supported the Joe Hale Student Sponsorship Fund, as well as the Robert W. Lyons and Lewis W. Newlan scholarship funds. The Joe Hale Student Sponsorship Fund has helped sponsor hundreds of students so that they could attend the IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show and IIBEC Building Enclosure Symposium. The sponsorship covers registration, hotel, meals, and travel expenses. The Lyons and Newlan scholarships are academic scholarships given out annually to up to eight students studying architecture, engineering, building, and construction sciences.

IIBEC committee meetings were held throughout the afternoon, as committee members mapped out the near-term future of the organization and looked to build upon its recent growth and success.

A full day of networking and education concluded with IIBEC's Welcome Reception, followed by hospitality receptions sponsored by Carlisle, Johns Manville, and USG.



Aaron B. Nelson.



The IIBEC Welcome Reception and several hospitality suites capped Day One.



Stephanie Robinson.



Past IIBEC presidents, left to right: Bob Card, Ted Sheridan, Chris Giffin, Amy Peevey, Rob rt Hinojosa, Chris Dawkins.



Wild turkeys and geese dotted the course at the Foundations' Golf Tournament.

DAY TWO

Well-attended education sessions, the Trade Show Grand Opening, and a keynote address from Brett Culp were among the highlights of Day Two of the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show in Sacramento, California.

The registration desk remained busy as conventiongoers streamed in to take advantage of a full day of education and networking, and to see the latest products from more than 140 building enclosure product manufacturers and service providers.

The first block of morning education included sessions on building enclosure performance verification testing, cladding at the American Museum of Natural History, and how to understand fire resistance code standards. Trent Cotney provided a look at contract provisions and other emerging trends ahead of separate sessions focused on fenestration, innovative stone panels and LEED requirements, and low-slope roofing enhancements to address severe climate risks.

The RCI-IIBEC Foundation and RCI Foundation Canada held a board meeting, after which IIBEC chapters presented the foundation with donations to the foundations' work.

The afternoon kicked off with region meetings, followed by the Opening Ceremony, sponsored by Johns Manville. After IIBEC Second Vice President Burt Carver, RRC, RRO, encouraged attendees to move to the "beat of innovation," the Mandarins Drumline entered the auditorium to energize the crowd for the rest of the Opening Ceremony.

IIBEC Executive Vice President and CEO Brian Pallasch, CAE, reminded the crowd that IIBEC's Certified Building Enclosure Commissioning Provider (CBECxP) certification program has been accredited by the ANSI National

Accreditation Board under the international standard ISO/IEC 17024. He also promoted IIBEC's 2027 International Convention and Trade Show, which will take place March 18-21 in San Antonio, Texas.

IIBEC President Chris Dawkins, PE, took the stage to welcome attendees and to highlight the more than 300 first-time attendees of an IIBEC convention. He also celebrated the new IIBEC Sacramento Valley Branch and looked forward to the announcement of the winners of IIBEC's

Excellence in Building Enclosure Consulting (EBEC) Awards.

Dawkins then introduced the keynote speaker, filmmaker Brett Culp, whose keynote address, "Superhero Leadership in Uncertain Times," used clips from his filmmaking to inspire audiences to lead with authenticity, humility, and service.

Following closing remarks, the Mandarins Drumline led the audience out of the auditorium and to the grand opening of the trade show, which stayed open into the evening.



Engaged attendees packed the education sessions during the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show.



Attendees asked vendors about their latest products and services during the grand opening of the trade show.



The Mandarins Drumline.



Brett Culp.



Brian Pallasch.



Day Three of the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show honored several of its members for excellence and longevity during its annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 14—a day filled with networking opportunities and more education sessions.

The annual Awards Ceremony, sponsored by Sika, kicked off with IIBEC Executive Vice President and CEO Brian Pallasch introducing a video highlighting the four winners of IIBEC's Excellence in Building Enclosure Consulting (EBEC) Awards. The EBEC Award in the Roofing category went to Milirsan Pugalendiran, RRO. In the Waterproofing category, the winner was Christopher W. Giffin, F-IIBEC, RRC, AIA. In the Exterior Wall category, the award went to Jennifer Hogan, RWEC, CBECxP, RRO, LEED AP, Certified Passive House Consultant. In the Building Enclosure category, the winner was Christopher Grey, RRC, REWC, PE.

The Horowitz Award for the best technical article in the past year in *IIBEC Interface* magazine went to Stephen Patterson, F-IIBEC, RRC, PE, and Jordan Beckner, RRC, for their July 2025 article, "Impact Resistance of Roof Coverings."

Next up were the Outstanding Chapter Awards. This year, 26 out of 27 chapters received awards for their work this past year. Silver-level awards went to the Ohio Valley Chapter, the West Michigan Chapter, and the Central Texas Chapter. Gold-level awards went to the Delaware Valley Chapter, the New England Chapter, the Georgia Chapter, the Virginia Chapter, the Great Lakes Chapter, the Arizona Chapter, the Puget Sound Chapter, the Northern California Chapter, the Quebec Ontario Chapter, the Wisconsin Chapter, and the Colorado Chapter. Chapters achieving Platinum level were the Metro New York Chapter, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the Carolinas Chapter, the Florida Chapter, the Mid-South Chapter, the Chicago Area Chapter, the Gulf Coast Chapter, the North

Texas Chapter, the Southern California Chapter, the Portland Chapter, the Southern Ontario Chapter, and the Western Canada Chapter.

Pallasch then asked 25-year, 30-year, 35-year, and 40-year IIBEC members who were present to stand and be recognized.

Tom Gernetzke took the stage to present the Herbert Busching Award, which went to Appupillai "Bas" Baskaran, R-IIBEC, PhD, PEng. Gernetzke then inducted new members into the Jury of Fellows. New inductees this year are John C. Wylie, RBEC, RRO, PE, and Chris Dawkins, PE. Gernetzke then presented a distinct honor to Karen McElroy, only the eighth recipient to be recognized as an Honorary Member of IIBEC.

Brian Pallasch returned to the stage to present the Emerging Professionals Award of Excellence to Mallory Buckley, RRO, PE. The Michael DeFrancesco Outstanding Volunteer Award went to Stephanie Robinson, PEng.

The IIBEC Staff Longevity Award went to RCI-IIBEC Foundation Development Officer Rick Gardner.

Dawkins took the stage again to present the President's Award to Charles T. Sietmann, RRC, RRO, REWO, CCCA, CIT. Last, the Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Arthur Sark, F-IIBEC. Sark attended every IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show until this year, but Dawkins said he was able to travel the week prior to this year's convention and trade show to present the award in person to Sark.

AFTERNOON EDUCATION

Afternoon education sessions focused on waterproofing shotcrete, the complexities of condensation, and trends in roof re-cover applications.

A variety of receptions closed Day Three of the convention and trade show, with the new IIBEC Sacramento Valley Branch hosting an event for the first time, another year of the V.I. Platinum Hour, an appreciation event for platinum sponsors, and another successful Emerging Professionals Networking Reception.



Jordan Beckner (left) and Stephen Patterson.





The 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show wrapped up on March 15 with the RCI-IIBEC Foundations' Live Auction and Reception, the President's Banquet, and the announcement of election results for IIBEC's secretary/treasurer.

Conventiongoers rose early to attend the first block of education sessions, choosing between talks on wind uplift performance of mechanically attached roof assemblies, soffit detailing strategies for performance and durability, and case studies on water penetration in existing buildings. Aaron B. Nelson, RBEC, RRO, then presented a general session for all attendees, "The 1,000,000 Square-Foot Conundrum and Other Boxes to Climb Out Of."

The final block of morning education featured sessions focused on the effects of interior air management systems on exterior enclosure performance and on how to get started with artificial intelligence.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members included the announcement of election results for IIBEC's secretary/treasurer. Jon Cannon, RRC, REWC, RRO, REWO, CDT, was named the winner of the election. The full IIBEC Board of Directors for 2026-2027 is:

- President: Jennifer Hogan, REWC, CBECxP, RRO, LEED AP, Certified Passive House Consultant, Pretium Engineering Inc.
- First Vice President: Burt Carver, RRC, RRO, Apex Building Sciences Inc.

- Second Vice President: Julie Palmer, RRO, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jon Cannon, RRC, REWC, RRO, REWO, CDT
- Immediate Past President: Chris Dawkins, PE, Beech Consulting Inc.
- Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President: Brian Pallasch, CAE, IIBEC
- Region I: Norm Crouse, RRO, Dedicated Roof & Hydro Solutions
- Region II: Nick Tribble, RRO, SKA Consulting Engineers Inc.
- Region III: Charles T. Sietmann, RRC, RRO, REWO, CCCA, CIT, Building Technology Group
- Region IV: Mallory Buckley, RRO, PE, BECxP + CxA+BE, Walter P Moore & Associates
- Region V: André Coppin, RRC, RRO, RA, Cornerstone Architectural Group

- Region VI: Jon Solland, RRC, RWC, RRO, PEng, RJC Engineers
- Region VII: Stephanie Robinson, PEng, WSP Canada Inc.

AUCTION AND BANQUET

Following additional afternoon education sessions, the RCI-IIBEC Foundations' Live Auction and Reception, which supports scholarships, research, education, and the next generation of building enclosure professionals, took place, followed by the President's Banquet—the final event of the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show.

The 2027 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show will take place March 18-21 in San Antonio, Texas.



Back row, left to right: Jon Solland, Stephanie Robinson, André Coppin, Mallory Buckley, Nick Tribble, Norm Crouse, Charlie Sietmann. Front row, left to right: Jon Cannon, Julie Palmer, Burt Carver, Jennifer Hogan, Chris Dawkins, Brian Pallasch.



Chris Dawkins and Jennifer Hogan.



Aaron B. Nelson.





Foundations' Results From the 2026 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show

Golf Outing

- 144 golfers
- Winning golfer foursome: Nathan Rockwell, Bill Hobgood, Cody Canan, and Shawn Morgan
- SOPREMA and Performance Roof Systems were presenting sponsors
- Over \$63,000 raised for Foundations' student programs

Student Sponsorships

- 39 student sponsorships
- 12 students from Canada
- 27 students from the US
- 39 IIBEC member hosts

Foundations' Auction

- 16 live auction items
- 12 door prizes
- GAF was the presenting sponsor
- Over \$35,100 raised for the foundations

Other

- Two of the students did a live interview on *Roofers Coffee Shop* and talked about their experience at their first IIBEC Convention and Trade Show
- Tom Smith purchased the week at Bethany Beach for \$4,000 and donated it back in memory of Walt Rossiter. Then Scott Hinesley matched that gift and purchased the week
- \$16,306 in donations from individuals, as well as IIBEC chapters in the US and Canada



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK GARDNER

The 2027 IIBEC Convention and Trade Show will take place March 18-21 in San Antonio, Texas.

Art Sark Receives Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award From IIBEC

FEW INDIVIDUALS HAVE demonstrated the sustained commitment, leadership, and loyalty to the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC) that Arthur “Art” Sark, F-IIBEC, has exemplified over more than 4 decades of service. A charter member and foundational leader during the organization’s early years as the Roof Consultants Institute (RCI), Sark’s influence is woven into the very fabric of IIBEC’s history and growth.

Sark’s connection to IIBEC spans over 40 years, during which he has been an unwavering presence at every annual convention—a record unmatched in the institute’s history. His decades of active participation symbolize the continuity, dedication, and institutional memory that have guided IIBEC from its formative years to its position today as a globally respected professional association.

“Art’s support of RCI/IIBEC has spanned longer than most professional careers in our industry,” said Tom Gernetzke, F-IIBEC, RBEC, RRC, RWC, REWC, CBECxP. “His unassuming, steadfast dedication has quietly set a legendary example for all of us.”

Sark’s leadership began early. In 1990, he was elected as Region II director, representing members during a pivotal time in the organization’s development. In 1993, he obtained his Registered Roof Consultant (RRC®) credential, maintaining that distinction for 28 years.

His leadership trajectory continued as he rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as IIBEC president in 1996–1997. His presidency coincided with a challenging era in which the association faced financial and membership hurdles. Sark’s steady guidance, pragmatic leadership, and unwavering optimism helped lay the groundwork for the organization’s future growth and stability.

Beyond his formal leadership roles, Sark has consistently strengthened IIBEC through his committee service. As chair of the Nominating Committee in 2009, he ensured the continued development of strong and capable leaders—a

contribution that, while often behind the scenes, has had lasting impact on the stability and governance of the institute. His longstanding participation on various committees has shaped IIBEC’s policies, programs, and professional standards for generations of members.

Sark has attended every IIBEC convention since the organization’s inception—a record that reflects both loyalty and love for the building enclosure profession. His decades of mentorship, committee service, and advocacy have made him a respected figure across generations of members.

In recognition of his meritorious service, in 1996 Sark was named a Fellow of IIBEC (F-IIBEC), one of the organization’s highest honors, and was also granted member emeritus status in 2012. Yet his contributions extend far beyond

titles. Sark has served as a mentor, ambassador, and living historian for the institute, always ready to share institutional knowledge, encourage participation, and embody the professional integrity and collegial spirit that define IIBEC’s values.

Sark’s lifetime of extraordinary service—from leading through the organization’s formative challenges to his enduring commitment over 4 decades and his example of loyalty and professionalism—embodies the spirit of the Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award. His unwavering dedication, historical continuity, and quiet but powerful influence have made him one of the most respected and beloved figures in IIBEC’s history. He stands as a model for what it means to serve a profession and an association for a lifetime.



Art Sark (seated) with (left to right) Amy Simmons and Kevin Johnston, Art’s daughter and son, respectively; Art’s wife, Tessa (directly behind Art); and Bill and Carolyn Rogers. Photo by Bill Rogers.

AN UPDATE ON ART SARK

Contacted ahead of receiving his Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award, Art Sark was eager for his IIBEC colleagues to know how he was doing. We caught him in a reflective mood.

"I've been involved all through IIBEC's history," Sark said. "I was in the first class of IIBEC. In 1983 they let everyone that was participating be a charter member. I attended every IIBEC convention through 2025, and I was an RRC® from 1993 until 2021."

In July 2000, Sark started Rogers & Sark Consulting Inc., in the Orlando, Florida, area, building it, at its peak, to a nine-member firm. Sark stepped away from the business last September.

At the time of our interview, Sark was at the Orlando Regional Medical Center after falling and breaking his femur. Sark's recollection of his time with IIBEC was a balm as he recovered from that fall.

"I've gotten hurt and can no longer run my business," Sark told IIBEC. "I'm no longer able to work. But I've enjoyed the years with RCI [the

former name of IIBEC]. They were absolutely the key to my professional career because I was not a registered architect or engineer. But I was a Registered Roof Consultant, so they allowed me to be president. RCI gave me a voice in the industry."

A copy of Sark's resume shows his many professional affiliations. Those include serving as president of the Florida Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors Association in 1985, earning a CDT through the Greater Orlando Chapter of Construction Specifications Institute, and serving as chapter vice president in 1991. Sark was selected by the Central Florida Builders

Exchange and the Construction Industry Council as a juror for its Craftsmanship Award Program, honoring outstanding craftsmanship in roofing. Additionally, Sark taught IIBEC courses, including "Advanced Roof Consulting" and "Rooftop Quality Assurance," at the IIBEC Florida Chapter level.

Sark's business partner, Bill Rogers, remembered that Sark "always told our clients that he understood roofs because 'roofs talk to me.'" Sark's decades of service and dedication to IIBEC speak for themselves. IIBEC congratulates Sark on his Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award.



IIBEC President Chris Dawkins (left) presents Art Sark with the Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo by Bill Rogers.



Art Sark at IIBEC's 40th anniversary celebration during the 2023 IIBEC International Convention and Trade Show.



Art Sark holds his Joe F. Hale Lifetime Achievement Award from IIBEC. Photo by Bill Rogers.



AWARD WINNERS

Richard M. Horowitz Award



Jordan Beckner (center right) and Stephen Patterson (center left) accept the Richard M. Horowitz Award.

Herbert W. Bushing Jr., PhD, Memorial Award



Bas Baskaran holds his Herbert W. Bushing Jr., PhD, Memorial Award.

Fellow



John Wylie (right) is inducted into the Jury of Fellows by Tom Gernetzke.



Fellow



Honorary Member



Chris Dawkins (right) is inducted into the Jury of Fellows by Tom Gernetzke. Karen McElroy (center) holds her Honorary Member of IIBEC award.

President's Award



Charles T. Sietmann (center) accepts the President's Award.



Michael DeFrancesco Volunteer of the Year Award



Stephanie Robinson (center) accepts the Michael DeFrancesco Volunteer of the Year Award.

Emerging Professionals Award of Excellence



Mallory Buckley (center) holds her Emerging Professionals Award.

Staff Longevity



Rick Gardner (second from right) is recognized for staff longevity.



Waterproofing



Christopher Giffin (center) accepts his EBEC Award.

Roofing



Milirsan Pugalendiran (center) accepts his EBEC Award.

Exterior Wall



Jennifer Hogan (right) accepts her EBEC Award.

Building Enclosure



Christopher Grey (center) accepts his EBEC Award.

IIBEC CHAPTER AWARDS



Mike Lopez (center) of the IIBEC Metro New York Chapter accepts its award.



Anthony K. Dukes (center) of the IIBEC Mid-Atlantic Chapter accepts its award.



Keith Parker (center) of the IIBEC Carolinas Chapter accepts its award.



Frank Louis-Jeune (center) of the IIBEC Florida Chapter accepts its award.



Andy Barriento (center) of the IIBEC Chicago Area Chapter accepts its award.



Graciél Rodriguez (center) of the IIBEC Gulf Coast Chapter accepts its award.



Blaine Sibby (center) of the IIBEC North Texas Chapter accepts its award.



Jeremy Roberts (center) of the IIBEC Southern California Chapter accepts its award.



Lora Ferrazzo (center) of the IIBEC Southern Ontario Chapter accepts its award.



Stefan Hanelt (center) of the IIBEC Western Canada Chapter accepts its award.



Caleb Ewing (center) of the IIBEC Portland Chapter accepts its award.



Brian Lauderdale (center) of the IIBEC Mid-South Chapter accepts its award.

IIBEC CHAPTER AWARDS



Michael Popeck (center) of the IIBEC Delaware Valley Chapter accepts its award.



John Karman (center) of the IIBEC New England Chapter accepts its award.



Pierce Ward (center) of the IIBEC Georgia Chapter accepts its award.



Jason Hoerter (center) of the IIBEC Virginia Chapter accepts its award.



Nicholas J. Baisden (center) of the IIBEC Great Lakes Chapter accepts its award.



Pete Keener (center) of the IIBEC Arizona Chapter accepts its award.



Elizabeth Nicholson (center) of the IIBEC Puget Sound Chapter accepts its award.



Joseph Buccini (center) of the IIBEC Northern California Chapter accepts its award.



Preston Seaward (center) of the IIBEC Quebec Ontario Chapter accepts its award.



Mitch Hansen (center) of the IIBEC Wisconsin Chapter accepts its award.



Lauren Morley (center) of the IIBEC Colorado Chapter accepts its award.



Paul Buettell (center) of the IIBEC Ohio Valley Chapter accepts its award.



Elise Love (center) of the IIBEC West Michigan Chapter accepts its award.



Robert Kuhn (center) of the IIBEC Central Texas Chapter accepts its award.

SPONSORS

Platinum Sponsor: Carlisle



Platinum Sponsor: Elevate



Platinum Sponsor: GAF



Platinum Sponsor: IB Roof Systems



Platinum Sponsor: Johns Manville



Platinum Sponsor: National Gypsum



Platinum Sponsor: Polyglass



Platinum Sponsor: Sika



Platinum Sponsor: Siplast



Platinum Sponsor: Situra Inc.



Platinum Sponsor: SOPREMA



Platinum Sponsor: Versico Roofing Systems



SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor: Anchor Products



Gold Sponsor: H.B. Fuller



Gold Sponsor: Performance Roof Systems



Gold Sponsor: USG



Silver Sponsor: Rockwool



Not pictured:

Platinum sponsor: Flynn Group of Companies

Gold sponsor: Walker Consultants

*Silver sponsors: Lightning Protection Institute, REI Engineers, WJE
Sponsors: Angelus Waterproofing & Restoration Inc., Georgia-Pacific,
Klein & Hoffman, Pretium, Rimkus, Walter P Moore*





IIBEC 40-Year Members

Thomas R. Baker
Curtis Liscum, RRC, RRO

Colin R. Murphy, F-IIBEC, RRC
Johann L. Willers, F-IIBEC, RRC, PE

IIBEC 35-Year Members

Robert Varner, RRC
Thomas Hutchinson, F-IIBEC,
RRC, AIA
Thomas Ewing, RRC
Charles Goldsmith, AIA

Dean Larsen
Phillip Smith, PE
Edward Sheridan, F-IIBEC,
RBEC, RRC, REWC, RWC, PEng
Jay Pine

Richard Wagner, RRC, CCS
Joseph Heidt, RRC, CDT

IIBEC 30-Year Members

John Shepherd, RRC, RRO
Rodney Honeycutt
Darrel Pewtress
Raymond Ramos, RRC, PE
Bill Conley
Raven Broeker

William Tipton, RRC
John Doyle
Anthony Capocci, RRO
John Ogaitis, RRC
Peter Sparks
Wissam Naamani

Ronald Kinne Jr., RRC, RRO
Azucena Soto, RRO
Paul Ackerman Jr., RRO, PE
Ralph Paroli, CChem

IIBEC 25-Year Members

Martin Flores, RRC, RRO
Derek Cundiff, RBEC, RRC,
RWC, REWC, AIA
Steve Bunn, RRC, RRO
Gary Hamilton, RRC, RRO,
PEng
Buddy Cornstubble, RRO
Norbert Lash
Todd Fehsel, RRC, RRO
Dave Neal, RRO
Joseph Jenkins

David Rash, RRC
Terry Czerwinskyj
Mary Molle
Bob Woykin
Connie Weiss, RRO
Paul Buccellato, F-IIBEC, RWC,
REWC, FASTM, AIA
Peter Bookholt Sr.
Ryan Sykora
Steven Gray, CAT, AIA
Chuck Allen

Todd Nathan, RRC, RRO
Edward Fronapfel, PE
Thomas Parisien, TQ
Tim Stubbins, ASCT
Brandon Hexham, RRO
Ron Dorszynski, RRO
Edwin Uzomba, RRO
James Gruebnaue, RRC
Jeffrey Baker, RRO
James Ripley, RBEC, RRC,
RWC, REWC, RRO, REWO, RA

KAREN MCELROY NAMED IIBEC HONORARY MEMBER

Karen McElroy, who has served IIBEC and its members for 26 years, was named an honorary member of IIBEC during the Awards Luncheon. She shared her thoughts on the induction following the awards ceremony:

Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you say and what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." That sentiment has guided me through my career and resonates even more today.

I am profoundly grateful to RCI/IIBEC, which took a chance on me 26 years ago. During this time, I have had the privilege of serving dedicated volunteers as well as learning from truly extraordinary volunteers. As I reflect, I am filled with appreciation for the journey that brought me here.

IIBEC volunteers' passion has inspired me to be the best I could be—to create meaningful moments, the kind that make people feel seen, valued, and connected. You have encouraged me every step of the way. It has truly been a privilege and honor.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my path as I step into the next chapter of my life.

