



By Brian Pallasch, EVP & CEO

EACH FALL, IIBEC puts out a call for volunteers. And each fall, we ask members to consider serving on a committee, getting involved with a chapter, mentoring another member, or helping with one of the many other activities that keep IIBEC moving forward.

This year, I want to turn that question around.

What are you trying to get out of your involvement with IIBEC?

Maybe you want to build stronger relationships with people who understand the work you do. Maybe you want to learn from other building enclosure professionals outside your company or your local market. Maybe you want to raise your profile in the profession, develop leadership experience, give something back to an industry that has been good to you, or help shape where that industry goes next.

If any of those sound familiar, volunteering may be one of the best ways to put your IIBEC membership to work.

WHERE THE WORK GETS DONE

Committees are where much of IIBEC's work takes shape. The meetings you attend, the educational programs you rely on, the articles you read, the technical information we publish, and many of the positions IIBEC advances on behalf of the profession all depend on members who are willing to contribute their time and expertise.

But I don't want you to think about volunteering only in terms of what IIBEC needs from you.

Think about what the experience can help you accomplish.

Committee service puts you in regular conversation with professionals from across the industry. You hear different perspectives. You encounter approaches and ideas you may not see in your day-to-day work. You build relationships

What Do You Want to Get Out of IIBEC?

with people you might otherwise meet only once or twice a year at an IIBEC event.

And, importantly, you have a voice.

If there is something you think IIBEC should be doing differently, something our profession needs to address, or an area where you believe your experience can make a difference, volunteering gives you an opportunity to move from having an opinion about the work to having a hand in it.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GET INVOLVED

Committee service isn't the only option.

Maybe what you want at this point in your career is an opportunity to mentor someone coming into the profession. The IIBEC Foundation brings students to the Building Enclosure Symposium and International Convention and Trade Show, and those students need hosts. A relatively small investment of your time can make a lasting impression on someone who is just discovering the building enclosure industry.

Project Excel offers a way to be a mentor or a mentee and engage one-on-one with an IIBEC colleague. The program pairs experienced IIBEC members with mentees looking for guidance, perspective, and a connection with someone who has already traveled part of the road they are on.

Or maybe your goal is simply to know more IIBEC members where you live and work. Get involved with your local chapter or branch. Attend an event. Introduce yourself. Ask how you can help. IIBEC's 27 chapters and 5 branches create opportunities throughout the year to build relationships that can become professional resources, referral networks, friendships, and sometimes all three.

Our International Convention and Trade Show and Building Enclosure Symposium offer still more ways to participate. Volunteers help develop the education and networking programs members experience at those events. Others review abstracts, papers, and presentations to help ensure that IIBEC education continues to meet the standard our members expect.

And if you would rather start with something more immediate, volunteer as an IIBEC ambassador at convention. Help another member find a session or answer a question—

and you'll probably meet a few people yourself in the process.

A BETTER QUESTION

One of the things we have learned from listening to members is that people engage with IIBEC for different reasons and at different points in their careers.

There isn't one "right" way to volunteer.

The better question is: What are you trying to accomplish right now?

Do you want to expand your professional network? Develop as a leader? Learn from people outside your usual circle? Share what you have learned? Help someone earlier in their career? Influence the direction of your profession? Or simply feel more connected to the IIBEC community?

Start there.

Then look for the volunteer opportunity that helps you make that progress.

Yes, IIBEC needs volunteers. Much of what this organization accomplishes simply would not happen without members stepping forward to do the work and share their passion and expertise.

But I also believe volunteering should work for the volunteer.

When we can connect what IIBEC needs with what our members are trying to accomplish professionally and personally, everybody benefits. The member grows. The organization gets stronger. And the building enclosure profession benefits from the experience, judgment, and energy our members bring to the table.

So this fall, I'm not simply asking you to volunteer.

I'm asking you to think about where you want to go next—and whether getting more involved with IIBEC can help you get there.

Visit <https://iibec.org/volunteer> to explore the opportunities and let us know what kind of involvement interests you. There is important work to be done, and I hope you'll find a role in it that works for you.