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President

Better Together

time away from their personal and professional commitments to support IIBEC.

As a part of IIBEC's strategic plan, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee published a diversity and inclusion plan (<https://iibec.org/diversity-and-inclusion>). Developed to ensure that each member has a place, value, and voice within our organization, the plan prioritizes the perspectives, experiences, backgrounds, and knowledge of every member, and it helps us—as an association, a profession, and a community—be better together than we can be as individuals.

In fact, IIBEC (formerly RCI) was founded upon the principle of “better together.” Forty years ago, “building enclosure” was not a known area of practice within the construction industry. Individuals with specialized expertise in building enclosure materials, design, construction, and evaluation were underrepresented and underappreciated. They lacked an established community for networking, support, and growth, and they needed an amplified voice to speak up about their value in the construction industry. When IIBEC's founders realized that they could be better together, they took action and created this organization to help members network and support each other, succeed in advocacy efforts, and foster widespread recognition that building enclosure consultants are critical industry leaders.

IIBEC's founders were right: We are better together. Today, savvy owners, designers, and contractors want to work with IIBEC members because they recognize the value that building enclosure consultants provide. They know that IIBEC-credentialed professionals can ensure that qualified team members are engaged to achieve success for existing and new construction projects. Working together, IIBEC members have also researched and developed innovative industry solutions, and we have played an important role in improving building codes, standards, laws, and regulations. In these ways, we have had a powerful and positive impact on public safety, economic growth, and the future of sustainable and resilient construction.

In a nutshell, the 40-year history of IIBEC is the story of how building enclosure consultants

have moved from underrepresentation to inclusion and empowerment in the construction industry, and how our success has benefited our professional community, the built world, and the public. I believe that incorporating diversity and inclusion into our best practices is necessary to continue forward on this journey. The society we live in is undeniably diverse. Therefore, we must be inclusive to grow and prosper.

Some may consider diversity and inclusion to be abstract goals, but they are actually quite practical matters, with practical goals and applications. As noted in IIBEC's diversity and inclusion plan, “substantial research shows that diversity brings many advantages to an organization: increased profitability and creativity, stronger governance, and better problem-solving abilities.” For IIBEC and the building enclosure profession to continue to grow and sustain success, a key priority is recruiting talented, distinctive, and forward-thinking individuals to join our membership and the building enclosure industry. Additionally, our success in our individual careers and businesses is dependent on attracting and retaining employees who can develop innovative approaches based on sound expertise to resolve building enclosure problems and improve the building enclosure industry. And as human beings with an innate need for community, each of us has the responsibility to welcome, support, and include other members in our networks so that we continue to be better together.

Each day I hope to be a better version of myself than I was the day before. As a part of my personal initiative for growth, I pause and ask myself: “What steps can I take here and now to build an equitable future for our profession?” I hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with me regarding how IIBEC can better support you as a member and help everyone in our community as we each progress on the same journey of life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE first 15 recipients of the Certified Building Enclosure Commissioning Provider (CBECxP®) credential! I am so proud that these professionals successfully completed the rigorous application process and passed the CBECxP exam. I look forward to congratulating more credential holders in the future! As we celebrate this milestone, I want to acknowledge the IIBEC staff and volunteers who have developed and supported our credentialing program. Thanks to your hard work, IIBEC continues to meet our strategic goal of “lead[ing] the industry in building enclosure consulting credentials.”

Speaking of IIBEC's strategic goals, staff and volunteers met at IIBEC's headquarters this past May to evaluate our strategic plan. Over the next year, the plan will be updated to ensure its continued alignment with the future of IIBEC and its members. I am grateful to those who took

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