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*President*

# Drawing Strength at the Local Level

I WAS THRILLED to once again participate in IIBEC's Leadership Development Workshop, hosted in late October at IIBEC headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina. This annual event is an opportunity for leaders from IIBEC chapters and branches, region directors, executive committee members, and IIBEC staff to come together to advance IIBEC's strategic goal to "improve chapter effectiveness and promotion of IIBEC and local activities." This year's workshop focused on new member programs/benefits, a theme that was developed in response to feedback from last year's workshop, as well as the newly released 2024-2026 IIBEC Strategic Plan (<https://iibec.org/strategic-plan>), recent IIBEC policy and guideline changes, and chapter-focused responses from the IIBEC member-needs survey.

While IIBEC is an international organization, we draw our strength at the regional and local chapter levels. In our work as building enclosure professionals, so many of the issues we face are local ones—building codes, state and provincial laws and regulations, the supply chain, the availability of skilled workers, procurement and contracting rules, the weather and climate, insurance needs, and even aesthetic trends. That local aspect of our professional work is why it is so crucial to invest time and resources to support the boots-on-the-ground efforts of IIBEC's regions and their chapters/branches.

I appreciate everything that our local chapters are achieving, and I encourage those of you who are not actively engaged with one of IIBEC's affiliated chapters or branches to seek out the one nearest to where you live and work (<https://iibec.org/chapters-regions/affiliated-chapters>). As I can attest from my own experience as a member of the IIBEC Gulf Coast Chapter and Region IV, local IIBEC involvement has many rewards:

- Your fellow chapter members may know of local resources or "tricks of the trade" that will help you overcome work challenges.
- You will find many opportunities to hone your leadership skills—chapters are

always looking for volunteers to serve in a variety of roles.

- Your local chapter offers seminars, symposiums, and lunch-and-learns on locally relevant building enclosure technologies and best practices, as well as opportunities for you to present and exchange ideas with your local colleagues.
- Local chapters are a great place to build your network, find a mentor, recruit talented building enclosure specialists, and learn about new career opportunities.
- Your local chapter is an invaluable informational and advocacy resource when there is pending legislation that will affect building enclosure professionals in your area. In many cases, local chapter members have influenced future laws through coordinated action with IIBEC's advocacy team.
- You can have some fun with a community of friends and colleagues at chapter golf outings, happy hours, dinners, and other social events.

I could go on and on about the benefits of local IIBEC involvement, but I will conclude by noting just one more: If you want to be sure that the IIBEC Board of Directors and headquarters staff know what matters to you, your local chapter and region can help amplify your voice. We all benefit from chapter and region feedback, the member initiatives developed from the Leadership Development Workshop, and programs run by regions and chapters to advance the profession of building enclosure consulting.

What do you value about your IIBEC region and local chapter? How can your region and local chapter advance our strategic goal to "improve chapter effectiveness and promotion of IIBEC and local activities"? I hope you'll let me, and your chapter and regional leaders know!

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