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President

Our Journey Together

AS THE SAYING GOES, "Time flies when you're having fun." I find it hard to believe that my time as IIBEC president is concluding, and that this is my last column for *IIBEC Interface*. The past 12 months have truly gone by quickly and have been a rewarding, challenging, and fun experience. I am very grateful that I have had the privilege of serving IIBEC as president and a member of the executive committee.

When Chris Giffin presented me with the "Turnover Chain," which is handed down from IIBEC president to IIBEC president and which, to me, symbolizes the weight of the office, I was eager to get started. Having served on the executive committee for the previous three years, I felt well prepared for the work ahead of me. Throughout my time at IIBEC, Chris Giffin, Ted Sheridan, Scott Hinesley, Bob Card, and other IIBEC leaders had been candid and constructive when we discussed what defines meaningful leadership and service, as well as the complexities I would likely face during my term. Their guidance was immeasurably valuable. Still, it didn't fully prepare me for how amazing this experience would be. Being president has profoundly and positively changed my sense of identity, and I feel more deeply rooted in the IIBEC community than ever before.

As I reflect on the past year, I am honored to have been the first female president in IIBEC's 40-year history. I also celebrate the many accomplishments we achieved this year. Through the hard work of countless volunteers and the IIBEC staff, we updated the strategic plan, surveyed members about their needs, launched a new credential, strengthened our bylaws, invested in improved educational programs and the empowerment of local chapters, built the framework for the IIBEC mentorship program,

and revamped the IIBEC awards program. We also continued to dedicate ourselves to upholding the IIBEC Code of Ethics; promoted diversity and inclusion; strove to ensure that building enclosure professionals are nationally and internationally recognized for the quality of their work and the depth of their expertise; and advocated for public safety, fair business practices, technical innovations, and progress in the construction industry. None of these efforts was easy, but thanks to the many exceptional folks working tirelessly "behind the scenes," I never doubted that we would succeed.

Moving forward there is, of course, much more work to be done. As I pass the Turnover Chain and the new IIBEC presidential scepter to our next president, Robért J. Hinojosa, I am confident that IIBEC is in good hands. I have always found Robért to be a trusted colleague and collaborator, someone who reliably provides objective feedback and creative solutions that are well informed by his wealth of legacy knowledge. Robért is always up for a challenge, and I am certain he will exceed expectations. Thank you, Robért, for all you have done and will do to improve our organization and our profession. Know that you can continue to rely upon my support whenever I can help.

In my first *IIBEC Interface* column, I pledged to "give back to IIBEC what IIBEC has given to me." I remain committed to this pledge and look forward to what's next on our journey together.

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