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*President*

# An Ethical Foundation

**I'M WRITING THIS** column in June, just weeks after my youngest son graduated from high school. I'm excited to discover how he navigates the next part of his life journey. And as he moves toward greater independence, I am hopeful that the core values he has learned from family and community will guide him well.

One of the core values that I have tried to uphold during my own life journey is that my actions—big and small, public and private—must have an ethical foundation. A major reason that I have remained so committed to IIBEC over the years is that this community holds ethics to be of paramount importance in our individual conduct, our profession, and our business operations.

In the fall of last year, IIBEC updated its Code of Ethics (<https://iibec.org/iibec-introduces-an-updated-code-of-ethics/>). As a part of our membership and credentials, we recommit each year to uphold this code. I hope you will take a moment to review the updated version. When I recently reread the IIBEC Code of Ethics, I felt inspired and sustained by the "fundamental canons" it establishes for IIBEC members:

- To "hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public";
- To act in "a professional and respectful manner and recognize the contributions of the project team engaged in consulting, design, and construction"; and
- To "value and treat with respect and dignity all individuals."

Since joining IIBEC, I have often reflected on the ways in which the IIBEC Code of Ethics translates into actionable principles. There have been times in my career when I have faced real-life tests involving ethical issues. In these situations, I have done my best to apply the code's principles in my decision-making process. I have also used those principles to assess professional relationships: Can I trust that my fellow team members are committed to an

ethical foundation for good business practices? If I cannot, then we are not well matched as professional partners.

I feel fortunate that early in my career, when I didn't have much personal experience tackling ethical issues, I was supported by mentors who helped me understand ethics in business. IIBEC will soon be introducing a mentorship plan and seeking volunteers to join in mentor-mentee relationships. The theme of this new plan is "facilitating success through personal connection." I'm thrilled to see this plan come together and anticipate that it will help IIBEC members foster the development of current and future leaders in our profession and industry.

If you are already serving as a formal or informal mentor to others, I'm curious to learn how you strive to instill an ethical foundation in your mentees. Have you ever discussed the IIBEC Code of Ethics or shared strategies for handling ethical matters? And if you are early in your career, I hope you will let me know how you are preparing to overcome ethical challenges now and in the future.

I encourage all IIBEC members to consider submitting an application to become a mentor or mentee within IIBEC's mentorship program when the portal opens in September. If you are interested in engaging with IIBEC in other ways, you can check out your local chapter's events, support the RCI-IIBEC Foundation, submit an article to this magazine, or apply to join an IIBEC committee. You can also join me at the upcoming Building Enclosure Symposium in Orlando, Florida, September 29–30, and the 2024 IIBEC Convention and Trade Show in Phoenix, Arizona, March 8–11. When we meet, I look forward to discussing how IIBEC can support you!

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