

# Insulation Advocate

## May 2014 Insulation Advocate: Focusing on Education

On Tuesday, May 20, I attended the first event of High-Performance Building Week, a reception honoring the National Institute of Building Sciences' (NIBS') 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. High-Performance Building Week, which was held from May 19-23, seeks to promote the potential of high-performing buildings and acknowledge the coalition that supports the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus. NIA was a sponsor of this reception and used the speaking opportunity and event to educate attendees on the value of mechanical insulation in creating more efficient, high-performance buildings.



Michele Jones with NIBS President Henry Green



NIA EVP/CEO Michele Jones Speaking at High-Performance Building Week Event

In prior issues of *Insulation Advocate*, we discussed NIA's work to include mechanical insulation language in the Shaheen-Portman Bill, which seeks to promote greater energy efficiency to increase the number of manufacturing, construction, and retrofitting jobs. When this legislation was introduced in the Senate last April, we identified it as a potential vehicle for mechanical insulation amendments. We worked to create language for potential inclusion in this bill that would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water and other similar distribution systems in commercial and multifamily buildings. The report would

also discuss the business case and return on investment of those opportunities.

We were able to gain support for this proposed amendment in the House of Representatives. Two Representatives, Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA), expressed interest in introducing this language as its own bill in the House of Representatives. If we are able to pass this legislation, it would provide a huge potential source of data that could help us as we continue to educate important officials on the value of mechanical insulation. Concrete proof of these benefits could go a long way toward increasing the use of insulation and encouraging the inclusion of mechanical insulation requirements in building codes.

On May 20-21, NIA held its spring Insulation Energy Appraisal Program (IEAP) class in Philadelphia. The program had 38 attendees who learned valuable information on how to determine the optimal insulation thickness and corresponding energy and dollar savings for a project. At the end of the training, the students took a final course exam, which is certified by the National Inspection Testing Certification Corporation. Overall, the course provides students with the skills they need to demonstrate the value of mechanical insulation. Currently NIA has approximately 810 Certified Insulation Energy Appraisers, and hopes to continue to add to this number. NIA offers companies the opportunity to sponsor an IEAP course for up to 30 students, and can provide customized learning materials showcasing the sponsoring company's branding. Please contact [training@insulation.org](mailto:training@insulation.org) for more information.

We also recently held a member-sponsored and customized National Insulation Training Program (NITP) class that had 34 students. This 2-day training program provides students with a working knowledge of insulation and insulation systems design that can help avoid costly mistakes that may result in system failure or injury to plant personnel. Overall, the NITP seeks to make the process of designing, specifying, and installing insulation quicker and easier. NIA offers the opportunity for companies to sponsor classes, which can be completely customized to fit their specific needs. For more information, or to inquire about sponsoring a class, please contact [training@insulation.org](mailto:training@insulation.org).

While *Insulation Advocate* often focuses on legislative activities, I think it is equally important to acknowledge and discuss the work NIA does to help educate the insulation industry. By offering these opportunities, we increase the overall expertise level of those in the industry, and help develop

the skills of those within in it. Having an educated, skilled, and involved workforce is our most important asset as we work to increase the use of mechanical insulation.

Best Regards,  
Michele M. Jones  
NIA EVP/CEO

National Insulation Association | 703-464-6422  
12100 Sunset Hills Road  
Suite 330  
Reston, VA 20190  
[www.Insulation.org](http://www.Insulation.org) | [www.InsulationOutlook.com](http://www.InsulationOutlook.com) | [www.InsulateMetalBuildings.org](http://www.InsulateMetalBuildings.org)

###

NIA is a not-for-profit trade association representing both merit (open shop) and union contractors, distributors, laminators, fabricators, and manufacturers that provide thermal insulation, insulation accessories, and components to the commercial, mechanical, and industrial markets throughout the nation. Since 1953, the northern Virginia-based association has been the voice of the insulation industry and is dedicated to keeping the commercial and industrial insulation industry up to date on the latest industry trends and technologies. For more information, visit [www.insulation.org](http://www.insulation.org).