



THE NATIONAL INSULATION ASSOCIATION

Insulation Advocate



October 2013 Insulation Advocate:

Building from the Ground Up

Getting Back to Work

Across the country, Americans are getting back to work, parks have re-opened, and D.C.-area visitors can once again walk freely to the Lincoln Memorial or Washington Monument. Unfortunately, the shutdown had a significant effect on the legislation that is currently slated to go through Congress, and we are experiencing delays in the legislative process. We are creating a strategic plan for continuing to advance legislation that includes mechanical insulation language, and we are hoping to move forward as soon as possible.

Part of our strategic plan is our continuing partnership with The Keelen Group, a lobbying firm that has helped to make mechanical insulation a priority on Capitol Hill. The head of the firm, Matt Keelen, was recently named in The Hill newspaper's Top 50 contract lobbyist list. This is a recognition of Mr. Keelen's hard work, and he is continuing to strive to obtain the same degree of success for NIA in the remainder of 2013 and in the coming year.

CWCC Establishes Better Building Workforce Guidelines

On October 29, I attended a meeting of the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council (CWCC), as I was recently invited to join the board of advisors. The main focus of this meeting was to establish credentials for 5 key occupations in order to improve the quality and consistency of the commercial building workforce. These credentials, entitled the Better Building Workforce Guidelines, include qualifications for the positions of Energy Auditor, Commissioning Authority, Building/Stationary Engineer, Facilities Manager, and Energy Manager. NIA is very excited to be a part of these discussions, as we have a unique point of view and significant input to provide for these positions.

The guidelines established by the CWCC will be available to be adopted by the spring of 2015 to professional certification bodies, labor union national training funds or apprenticeship program sponsors, private training providers, and career and technical education programs. Implementing these guidelines will help these providers to offer new and revised training programs that are high-quality, third-party accredited, industry endorsed, and recognized by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the General Services Administration (GSA). The overall aim of this process is to clarify standards, lower costs, and create better credentials, more qualified workers, and ultimately, better buildings.

NIA Foundation History Chart Available Online

The NIA Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement has won many victories for the insulation industry, and has been crucial in bringing this "forgotten" technology into the spotlight. In order to share the achievements of the Foundation, we created a NIA Foundation Progression Chart, which categorizes the many accomplishments of the Foundation since its inception in 1997. We are now posting that chart on the members only side of www.insulation.org so members can see just how much we have accomplished in the past 17 years. With our strategic partnerships and lobbying efforts, we are building a solid foundation from which we can grow our list of accomplishments, and win more victories for the industry.

Best Regards,
Michele M. Jones
NIA EVP/CEO