



INDUSTRY MESSAGE

Association Strong—70 Years

NIA recently held a very successful meeting of insulation industry professionals during its 69th Annual Convention at a great venue in Scottsdale, Arizona. With this Convention now complete, I start my term as NIA President. I am truly honored and privileged to serve this association that leads the insulation industry.

First, I would like to thank Jack Bittner for his service and commitment to NIA. I appreciate his mentorship and counsel over the past year. I look forward to Jack's continued support as one of my Past President Advisors, along with Laura Dover. I appreciate her willingness to provide her guidance during my term.

I have been in the insulation industry since graduation from college when I started as a field engineer for Owens Corning's Power and Process Contracting Group, which later became Performance Contracting. I have been a part of NIA since 2003, and I have seen the value of NIA as an association that brings all facets of the insulation industry together to network, educate, and learn from each other with a common goal to elevate and give back to the industry that has been an integral part of our lives. As NIA celebrates its 70th anniversary Convention in 2026, I chose the theme ***Association Strong—70 Years***, to celebrate all that NIA has accomplished in its first 70 years and look forward to the accomplishments ahead.

Promotion of Insulation Awareness

One of the most notable accomplishments of NIA is its promotion of insulation awareness. Through various campaigns, publications, and outreach programs, the association has successfully educated the public and industry stakeholders about the benefits of insulation. This increased awareness has led to a greater demand for insulation products and services, contributing to energy savings and reduced carbon footprints.

Advocacy for Industry Standards

NIA has been instrumental in advocating for and establishing industry standards. By collaborating with industry experts and other trade organizations, NIA is working to develop and implement standards related to mechanical insulation in the commercial and industrial markets. These standards will help to improve the reliability and quality of insulation systems.

Education and Certification Programs

Recognizing the importance of skilled professionals in the insulation industry, NIA has developed comprehensive education, training, and certification programs. These programs provide insulation contractors, engineers, and other professionals with the knowledge and skills required to excel in their roles. NIA's certification programs and Education Center are highly regarded and have become a benchmark for excellence in the industry.



Environmental and Energy Efficiency Advocacy

As a staunch advocate for environmental sustainability, NIA has championed the cause of energy efficiency. The association has worked tirelessly to promote insulation as a key strategy for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Through its advocacy efforts, NIA has influenced policies and regulations that support the integration of insulation in building codes and energy efficiency programs.

Safety as an Industry Priority

NIA has been an advocate and provider of safety resources for years. The NIA Safety Excellence Award recognizes outstanding achievements in maintaining high safety standards. This prestigious award is given to companies that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to safe work practices, ensuring the well-being of their employees and the community. (See p. 10 for a list of the 45 companies honored at Convention for their 2024 safety programs.)

NIA's accomplishments over the years have had a profound impact on the insulation industry and beyond, and continue to inspire and drive progress in the insulation industry, ensuring a sustainable and energy-efficient future. I look forward to building upon this strong legacy. To learn more about my background and history with NIA, the traditions I'm planning to continue, and the areas that I want to develop, please turn to p. 32.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick K. Sutphin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Rick Sutphin
NIA President