



### A New Year Full of Promise

This issue of *Insulation Outlook* is full of news of the promise a new year brings. First, David Tomchak, Chair of NIA's Metal Building Laminator Committee, walks us through the new-and-improved NIA-Certified Faced Insulation Standard for metal building insulation (page 8). Next, Bill Beals explains the most recent commercial energy code cycle (IECC 2021/ASHRAE 90.1-2019), focusing on what has changed and what you need to know to make sure your projects meet the latest requirements (page 14). And Josh Rasch offers a look into the world of acoustics, helping us understand the considerations that go into designing a space to meet end-user requirements, including sound absorption, background noise, and how different types of sound at different frequencies—think of voices in conversation compared to the air handling unit of an HVAC system, for example—all factor into decisions about what materials will work best to meet acoustic goals. These three articles cover completely different topics, but all involve efforts to better our industry and the world around us—from improving our industry's products to saving energy and money, and making our built environment safer and more comfortable.

But let's not stop there. On page 32, the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Mechanical Insulation Education, Training, and Industry Advancement (Foundation) provides an update on the Foundation's recent initiatives. At the top of the list (or perhaps tied with the launch of NIA's Education Center) is the upcoming Industry Measurement Survey. Conducted every 2 years by an independent, third-party company, and funded by the Foundation, the survey captures data on the size of the insulation industry, as well as industry growth trends. This year's survey will collect a wider range of information than in previous years, allowing us to learn more about the market share for different product groups and separate estimates for the commercial and industrial markets, as well as other trends. Check out the article to learn more about the survey and other Foundation developments.

Finally, I urge everyone to read Rick Rinehart's important and timely article, "Suicide and Opioid Overdose: Prevention Starts with Reducing Stigma," beginning on page 28. Our industry suffers disproportionately from the effects of both, and they affect so many individuals and families. Rick is Deputy Director of the Center for Construction Research and Training, and he spoke at our Fall Summit on how we need to remove the stigma and address mental health issues. His article provides information on free resources that can help you recognize someone who may be in trouble and get them the support they need.

With all of this information, we can work together to make a real difference in 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Leo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joe Leo  
President