

Quarterly Connection

A NIBS Member Newsletter

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Feature Story

NIBS Names New CEO George Guszczka

The National Institute of Building Sciences Board of Directors is proud to announce the selection of Dr. George K. Guszczka, D.Eng, CPEM, CCM, as the new President and CEO. Dr. Guszczka officially joined NIBS July 1.

Dr. Guszczka brings more than 25 years of experience in the built environment spanning the public, private,

and non-profit sectors in the U.S., UK, Europe, Middle East, and Africa.

Prior to joining NIBS, Dr. Guszczka served as the Chief Transformation Officer of Michael Baker International, where he led the development of enterprise-level strategic growth, go-to-market account plans, and the implementation of a playbook and digital transformation roadmap across practice communities and business units.

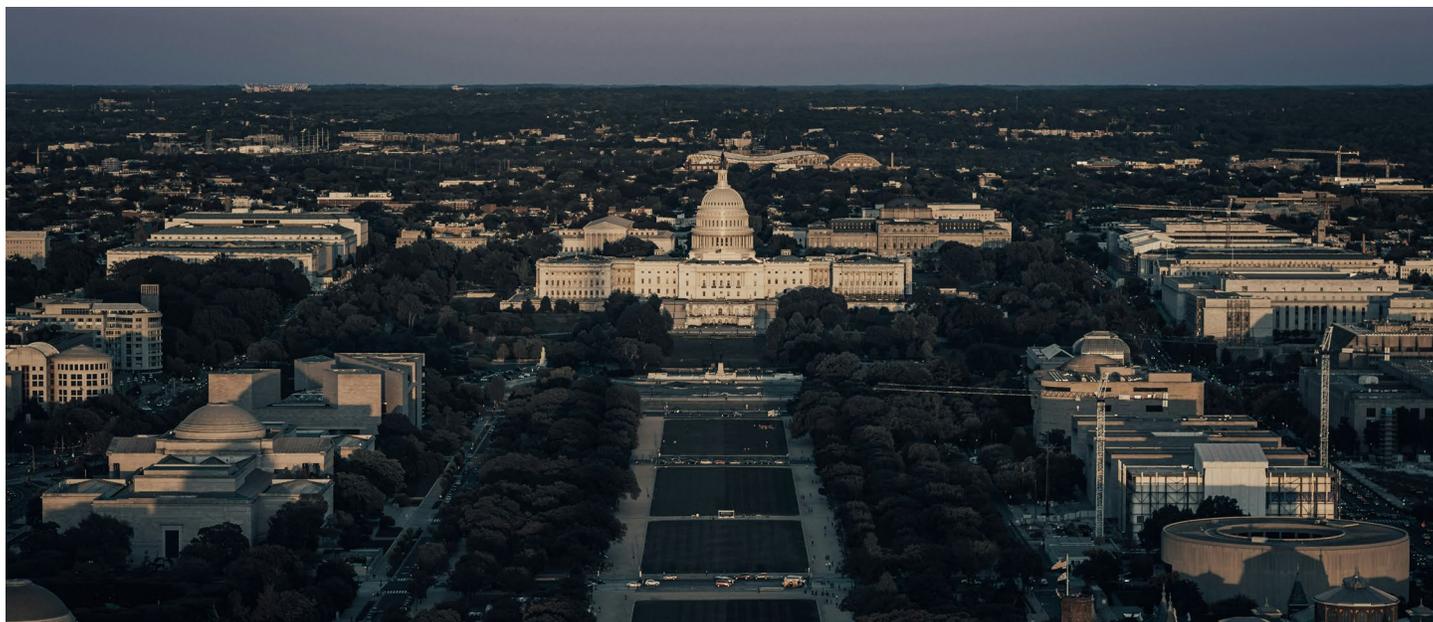
“The National Institute of Building Sciences convenes experts from the building industry, design, architecture, construction, and government to ensure our communities remain safe,” said Thomas H. Phoenix, Sr., Chair of the NIBS Board of Directors. “Dr. Guszczka is a visionary whose leadership will carry NIBS into its next chapter. We look forward to working with him and continuing our service to the nation’s built environment.”

Previously, Dr. Guszczka held several executive roles, including Chief Operating Officer with the Neal Richards

Group and Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration with Adams and Associates. He also served as the Founder and CEO of Aedifos Group, a multinational startup he led that supported the Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital on behalf of Project HOPE and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

In 2003, Dr. Guszczka served as an active duty U.S. Army Medical Service Corp officer and the National Director of Healthcare Facilities for Iraq under the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraq Ministry of Health. He led a staff of 3,000 architects and engineers to restart 240 hospitals, 10 specialty centers, and 1,200 clinics across the country.

Dr. Guszczka earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Master of Science in Major Program Management from the University of Oxford’s Said Business School, and Doctor of Engineering in Engineering Management from The George Washington University.



Building Innovation 2024

NIBS 50th Anniversary Takes Center Stage

Just before Memorial Day, NIBS held the Building Innovation 2024 annual meeting in Washington.

Hundreds of built environment professionals descended upon the Capital Hilton to attend educational sessions and network. The NIBS 50th anniversary celebration was highlighted throughout the conference.

NIBS opened the conference May 22, with the NIBS 50th Anniversary General Session. We sat down with many NIBS members and agency partners about our collaboration to advance building sciences in the U.S.

Our panel included Dominic Sims, CEO, International Code Council; Solomon Greene, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Mike Sebold, VP/GM Tremco CPG/Schul International; Sherri McMillion, Engineering Criteria and Programs Director, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC); Tim Judge, Senior Vice President, Head of Modeling & Chief Climate Officer, Fannie Mae; Charles Hardy, Chief Architect, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; and Thom Kurlmel, President, TDK Consulting.

“When you combine innovation and evidence, you can really impact communities,” said HUD’s Greene, about NIBS research and work within the built environment.

Hardy, with GSA, offered his congratulations to NIBS on serving the nation for 50 years.

“What the government does well is its power to convene,” Hardy said. “NIBS has got it nailed down ... bringing the industry together in a meaningful way. The tools and



analysis they bring from an outsider’s look – it’s super powerful.”

ICC’s Sims said if it weren’t for NIBS, some of the built environment’s most unique problems would not be solved.

“NIBS is the bridge to the industry,” he said. “I like to think of it as glue. NIBS has helped the industry solve the biggest problems ... most of the problems NIBS works on are the hard ones. They’re not the easy ones, and the public is safer because of NIBS.”

[Read More >>](#)

NIBS Announces Built Environment Awards Winners

NIBS recognized the 2024 built environment awards and scholarship recipients, during a ceremony at BI2024.

The 2024 award recipients are:

- NIBS Distinguished Service – Jim Cagley, Principal, Cagley & Associates
- Exceptional Woman in Building – Amy Marks, Executive Vice President, Global Strategy, Symetri

- Future Leaders – Emi Lafountain, Sustainability Integration Manager, Turner Construction Company
- NIBS Innovator – Green Canopy NODE
- NIBS DEI Leadership – Tremco Rising Stars Program
- The Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building and Community Award – Watershed

NIBS also named two recipients of the Betty and Mort Marshall Memorial Scholarship, which was established to promote diversity in the building sciences and benefit students pursuing a career in architecture and engineering at a historically Black college or university. The scholarship was started in 2020, in memory of the Marshalls. Mort was the first member of the National Institute of Building Sciences.

The 2024 scholarship recipients are Christin Williams, an architecture student with Florida A&M University, and Damario Berry, a civil and environmental engineering student with Howard University. Each student will receive \$5,000 toward their tuition.

Want to visit the Building Innovation sessions? BI2024 presentations have been added to the schedule page.

[View the presentations.](#)



Women Executives in Building Symposium

Knowledge is Power

When it comes to barriers to women in construction, they generally include stereotyping and social barriers, lack of education and training, and conditions in the workplace.

This and other diversity and workforce trends were covered during a recent day-long Women Executives in Building Symposium in Washington.

Tracy Thomas, Managing Director for Construction, Facility & Security Management with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), said aggressive recruiting, support from leadership, and a positive work environment keep women around in the workplace.

Thomas mentioned two key initiatives at OBO, including pointing to the benefits of collaborative partnerships in construction projects and the mutual objectives and shared values.

So how does one get past feeling like a spectacle on the construction site?

“The bias is tall, but I’m tall,” Thomas said. “Having a personality that stands out, learning how to express your own competence and confidence, and finding camaraderie and an ally in the workplace is important.”



Is the Built Environment Actually Changing for Women?

Part of our responsibility as women is to put our own biases aside, as this can hinder our own growth, said a panel of experts, including Vicki Worden, President & CEO, Green Building Initiative; Indra Gutierrez, President, Gutier; Laura Dwyer, Business Development Leader, DuPont Performance Building Solutions; and Jennifer Dewees, President, Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation.

And while diversity has changed in the industry in the past five to 10 years, a shortage remains with only 14 percent of women in the construction industry.

There is a massive deficit in opportunity vs. number of actual women working in the industry.

What helps is that many minority students are studying construction management – they grew up with their parents being in the industry and are looking to follow in their footsteps and build a career – and there’s generally more diversity in construction in general.

Dewees brought up imposter syndrome, mentioning that “women in general suffer from this, but we may also be being judged by criteria where we don’t fit.”

“Knowledge is power, and confidence is built over time,” Gutierrez said. “[You need to] find a supporter who wants to see you succeed and figure out who your allies are.”

[Read More >>](#)

Columns

Consultative Council Issues Report on Access to Clean Water and Housing Affordability

The National Institute of Building Sciences has issued the [2024 Moving Forward Report](#), a two-part report focused on recommendations to ensure access to clean water and sanitation and to promote housing affordability.

The report was compiled by the NIBS Consultative Council, which convenes high-level building community leaders to make collective recommendations directly to policymakers to improve the nation's buildings and infrastructure. The report is included as a core component of NIBS Annual Report to the President of the United States.

Clean Water and Sanitation and the Built Environment

In the report, "[Water and Sanitation Access and the Built Environment](#)," the Consultative Council focused on key considerations to inform decisions on planning for, mitigating, and potentially solving clean water access for residential and commercial buildings.

The Council concluded that water use in buildings and households is an underexamined and underappreciated aspect of the water crisis in the U.S.

A Close Look at Housing Affordability

The 2024 Moving Forward Report also examines the fundamental problem of affordability of rental and for-sale housing in the U.S. The study kicked off last November, when NIBS hosted a hearing on housing affordability at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The hearing assembled leading experts from trade associations, think tanks, academia, and practitioners to discuss the state of housing affordability and solutions to address the affordability and availability of housing.

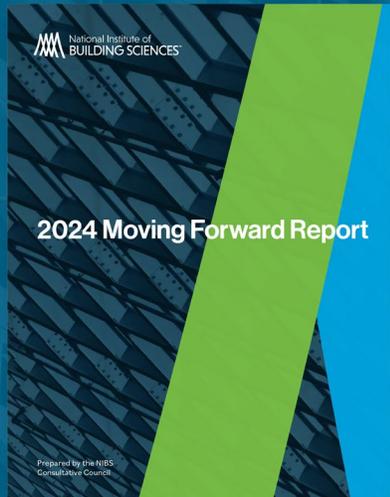
The housing affordability crisis has steadily worsened over decades of divergence between housing costs and incomes.

The council offers several recommendations around regulations, zoning and land use, financial investments, and alternative construction methods, including offsite construction.

[View the housing affordability report.](#)

NIBS Announces Digital Technology Council

To better serve the ever-evolving architecture, engineering, construction, and operations (AECO)



The image shows the cover of the '2024 Moving Forward Report' from the National Institute of Building Sciences. The cover features a dark blue background with a geometric pattern of overlapping squares and rectangles. A prominent green diagonal stripe runs from the bottom left towards the top right. The title '2024 Moving Forward Report' is centered in white text. The NIBS logo is in the top left corner, and 'Prepared by the NIBS Consultative Council' is in the bottom left corner.

The new Moving Forward Report is available!

[Download the Report](#)

industry, NIBS has renamed the Building Information Management Council to the Digital Technology Council.

The Digital Technology Council builds on the work and foundation of building information management and modeling and reflects the rapid expansion of digital technology in the built environment, expanding the focus areas of the council.

“The Digital Technology Council aims to advance digital transformation through the delivery of consensus-based industry standards, research, and thought leadership,” said Stephen T. Ayers, Interim President & CEO of NIBS, in a press release. “We are excited for this new chapter.”

The Digital Technology Council leadership team includes Rachel Riopel, Digital Practice Leader, HDR; Alex Belkofer, Senior VDC Director, Virtual Design & Construction, McCarthy Building Companies; and Zahra Ghorbani, BIM Manager, Office of Physical Plant, Penn State. [Read More >>](#)

NIBS Lifeline Special Advisor Yumei Wang Featured on CNN

A catastrophic earthquake and tsunami are inevitable for the coast of the Pacific Northwest, scientists say. Planning for that means imagining a disaster unlike anything that’s ever hit the modern United States. NIBS Lifeline Special Advisor Yumei Wang spoke with CNN for the story. [Read More >>](#)

New Paper: BIM and Digital Twins Co-exist to Drive Sustainability

A new [position paper](#) by the NIBS Digital Twin Integration Subcommittee (DTI-S) encourages the integration of building information modeling (BIM) and digital twin technology, presenting a groundbreaking opportunity



for the architecture, engineering, construction, and operations (AECO) industry.

This integration sets the stage for innovation, efficiency, and collaboration.

The position paper envisions a future where BIM and digital twins “coexist and synergize to drive sustainability and enhance operational performance ... [the paper] aims to demystify the relationship between BIM and digital twin and showcase how through strategic integration, leaders, technologists, and practitioners can accelerate significant industry-wide change.” [Read More >>](#)

The New York Times

How an American Dream of Housing Became a Reality in Sweden

The U.S. once looked to modular construction as an efficient way to build lots of housing at scale, but Sweden picked up the idea and put it into practice. [Read More >>](#)

CW39 Houston

U.S. Homeowners Are Moving to Climate-Vulnerable Areas

Harris County among highest risk for hurricanes according to FEMA. Galveston County, Brazoria County, Fort Bend County, and Montgomery County are among others with relatively high risk for severe weather. Yet, the influx of new residents has not slowed down. [Read More >>](#)

Building Enclosure

Sustainable Recovery: New FEMA Policy Takes Holistic View to Sustainability and Resilience

In 2023, the U.S. experienced a record 28 disasters causing over \$1 billion in damages, far eclipsing the prior record of 22 in 2020. Many of these disasters are driven by climate change. Communities that are impacted by

these disasters often experience a long road to recovery with the reconstruction of houses, schools, businesses and infrastructure. In many cases, this recovery is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). [Read More >>](#)

Construction Dive

Test AI Now, But Know the Risks, Panelists Say

Now is the best time to add generative artificial intelligence to construction workflows, said panelists at the National Institute of Building Sciences Building Innovation Conference in Washington, D.C., on Thursday.

AEC pros from both the government and the private sector discussed applications for the technology, which generates text, images, videos or other data using generative models, often in response to prompts. [Read More >>](#)

Digital Construction Today

National Institute of Building Sciences Announces Digital Technology Council

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) is launching a new body focused on advancing digital technology in the built environment. The Digital



Technology Council will replace the Building Information Management Council.

It will have a wider focus to reflect the rapid expansion of digital technology in the built environment, NIBS said.

[Read More >>](#)

Smart Cities Dive

HUD Tightens Flood-Protection Rules For New and Rebuilt Homes

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development strengthened flood-protection requirements for homes using federal funds for construction or substantial repair via a recently finalized regulation. [Read More >>](#)

Informed Infrastructure

National Institute of Building Sciences Names New Ceo George Guszczka

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Board of Directors is proud to announce the selection of Dr. George K. Guszczka, D.Eng, CPEM, CCM, as the new President and CEO. Dr. Guszczka officially joins NIBS on July 1, 2024.

Dr. Guszczka brings more than 25 years of experience in the built environment spanning the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the U.S., UK, Europe, Middle East, and Africa.

[Read More >>](#)

CEO Update

Guszczka to Lead Building Science Group

The \$18M-revenue National Institute of Building Sciences announced George K. Guszczka will take over as president and CEO of the organization, effective July 1. [Read More >>](#)

Observances & Events

July - UV Safety Month

July 4 - Independence Day

July 9 - [Fostering Collaboration for Climate Adaptation and Decarbonization in the Built Environment](#)

July 11 - [Introduction to the 2024 Edition of the IRC/IBC Seismic Design Category Maps and FEMA's Building Code Strategy Implementation to Advance National Building Code Adoption](#)

July 24 - National Thermal Engineer Day

July 26 - National Disability Independence Day

July 31 - [NASA's Power Project: Global Solar Insolation, Meteorological Parameter Data, and Web Services to Support Sustainable Building Design and Operations](#)

August - National Water Quality Month

August 22, 1974 - NIBS Established by Congress

September 2 - Labor Day

September 3 - National Skyscraper Day

September 11 - 9/11 Anniversary

September 15-21 - National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

September 15-October 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 20 - National Tradesmen Day

Find Us Online

National Institute of Building Sciences to Serve As Administrating Organization of U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day

[Read More >>](#)

National Institute of Building Sciences Announces Building Innovation 2024 Schedule

[Read More >>](#)

NIBS Issues Call-To-Action Report on Access to Clean Water and Housing Affordability

[Read More >>](#)

National Institute of Building Sciences Announces Built Environment Award Winners

[Read More >>](#)

Aging Infrastructure Requires National Push for Lifeline Resilience

[Read More >>](#)

National Institute of Building Sciences Names New CEO George Guszczka

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New Paper: BIM and Digital Twins Coexist to Drive Sustainability

[Read More >>](#)

Women Executives in Building Symposium: Knowledge is Power

[Read More >>](#)



On-Demand Webinars



Air-Tight Solutions: Air Barrier Selection, Trends, Challenges, and Quality Assurance

In this webinar, we will review code requirements and air barrier options for enclosure projects, share observed trends in the industry, and highlight common mistakes in designing and constructing air barrier systems.

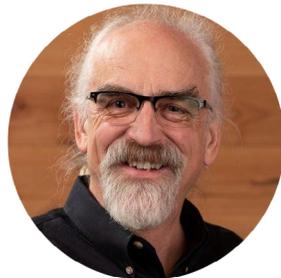
<https://continuingeducation.bnpmmedia.com/courses/gcp/air-tight-solutions-air-barrier-selection-trends-challenges-and-quality-assurance-web-live/>



Managing Roofing Risks: Air and Vapor Control

In this newly accredited AIA presentation, we aim to equip you with the insights needed to make informed choices between air/vapor barriers and permeable vapor retarders for low-slope roofing, enhancing your proficiency in creating resilient and sustainable building envelopes.

<https://continuingeducation.bnpmmedia.com/courses/vaproshield/managing-roofing-risks-air-and-vapor-control-web-live/>



Electronic Leak Detection for Roofing, Waterproofing and the Building Envelope

This one hour course will cover Electronic Leak Detection (ELD) testing methods used for quality assurance of roofing and waterproofing membranes. Participants will learn about the principles outlined in the ASTM Standard Guide D7877 and ASTM Standard Practice D8231.

<https://continuingeducation.bnpmmedia.com/courses/soprema-inc/electronic-leak-detection-for-roofing-waterproofing-and-the-building-envelope-web-live/>



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