

## ICC'S OCHOA NAMED VICE CHAIR HPBCC POLICY COMMITTEE

*The committee educates federal policy-makers on the importance of high-performance buildings.*

Christopher (Chris) E. Ochoa Esq., the International Code Council's (ICC) Vice President of Government Relations for Federal Activities, has been named Vice Chair of the 2016 High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee is a private sector coalition of building community stakeholders working to educate federal policymakers on the importance of high-performance buildings and advocating policies to achieve enhanced building performance. It provides guidance and support to the High-Performance Buildings Caucus of the U.S. Congress to promote and showcase best practices in building design and focus on issues reflecting all aspects of high-performance buildings including accessibility, aesthetics, cost-effectiveness, functionality, historic preservation, productivity, sustainability, and safety and security.

"Chris' experience and knowledge in building safety, codes and standards will be valuable to advance the objectives of the Caucus, including a view from the perspective of ICC members, especially code and fire officials, architects,

designers and engineers," said ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO.

Ochoa is responsible for developing and fostering Code Council relations and communications with federal administrators and agencies, Congress, congressional staff, congressional committees and professional organizations.

He was a partner in the Ochoa & Moore Law Firm in Sacramento, Calif., serving as Director of the Legislative, Administrative and Sports Representation Divisions. He represented ICC in Sacramento as outside counsel for 18 years, working closely with ICC Government Relations on many issues including adoption of the I-Codes. He has extensive experience analyzing legislation, and interacting with legislators and governmental agencies. Prior to his law practice, he served on the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) government relations staff.

Ochoa holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California at Davis and a Bachelor's degree from UCLA.

## ICC-ES ISSUES ESR-3403 TO SIMPSON STRONG-TIE FOR COMPOSITE STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS™

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES), the experts in building product evaluation and certification, has issued ESR-3403 to Composite Strengthening Systems (CSS), manufactured by Simpson Strong-Tie,

providing evidence their fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) complies with the code requirements of the 2015, 2012, 2009 and 2006 International Building Codes® (IBC) and International Residential Codes® (IRC).

The Composite Strengthening Systems (CSS) are externally bonded fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) systems applied to concrete structural elements. CSS consist of carbon fabrics or glass fabrics combined with epoxy resin to create the FRP composite system, or a carbon fiber precured laminate applied with an epoxy paste.

"We are pleased to issue another report to Simpson Strong-Tie, a respected manufacturer who continues to innovate and understands the value, quality and wide acceptance of ICC-ES evaluation reports," said ICC-ES President, Shahin Moinian, P.E. "This ICC-ES report will provide code officials with the technical information needed to immediately approve this product for installation with confidence and peace of mind."

ICC-ES thoroughly examined the Simpson Strong-Tie product information, test reports, calculations, quality control methods and other factors to ensure the product is code-compliant. "Our new code-listed carbon fabrics provide some of the highest design values in the industry. Full-scale testing is a requirement of the acceptance criteria by an accredited laboratory for an evaluation report, which we were able to perform at Tyrell Gilb Research Laboratory in Stockton," said Brad Erickson, S.E., CSS Engineering Manager. "Many specifiers will only include code-listed products in their specifications. With this report, our FRP products now meet that standard, including North America's first code-listed precured laminates."

## JEC AMERICAS SOLIDIFIES PARTNERSHIP WITH IACMI - THE COMPOSITES INSTITUTE

JEC Group (JEC) is proud to announce that it has recently become a Consortium Member of the Institute for Advanced



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Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI - The Composites Institute). JEC joins over 100 Consortium Members including important composite industry leaders in the field. IACMI, supported by the US Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office, is committed to delivering a public/private partnership to increase domestic production capacity, grow manufacturing, and create jobs across the U.S. composite industry. North America currently accounts for 32 percent of the global composites market, with a market share of nearly \$24 billion. Two-thirds of JEC Americas exhibitors are North American based, which underscores the remarkable evolution occurring throughout the continent. Between 2013 and 2018, North America is predicted to have an astounding 23 percent share of the composites industry's projected growth.

"The evolution of JEC Americas has naturally led us to get closer to IACMI. In essence, JEC group and IACMI share the same goal, which is to help the composites industry grow," explains Mrs. Frédérique Mutel, President and CEO, JEC Group. "JEC Group creates platforms worldwide, custom made to local and regional needs. Strength in the U.S. composites market led us to open a U.S. office 3 years ago and we continue to hire local experts to follow the progress of this industry and our events. Becoming a member of IACMI - The Composites Institute is the next step in our further integration in the American composites landscape," added Mrs. Mutel.

"We are proud to be part of this important organization that will help create synergies among American composites stakeholders," says Nicolas Baudry, Events Director North America region. "This partnership further demonstrates to our exhibitors and attendees our commitment to the U.S. composites industry," added Mr. Baudry.

"We are pleased to welcome JEC Americas as an IACMI - The Composites Institute consortium member. IACMI has brought together unprecedented commit-

ment from state governments, industry and research institutions committed to leveraging their resources and technology to develop a workforce, create jobs and increase global manufacturing competitiveness in the rapidly growing use of advanced composites," said Dr. Craig Blue, Institute CEO. "Gaining JEC Americas as a member strengthens the diversity and expertise of the entire organization," noted Dr. Blue.

In 2016, JEC Americas in Atlanta, GA will be co-located with Techtexil North America and Texprocess Americas. The composites show & conferences will be host to 750 exhibitors and 9,000 attendees encompassing 363,000 square feet of the Georgia World Congress Center.

## **JQ CEO STEPHEN H. LUCY, P.E., RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD FROM TEXAS A&M'S ZACHRY DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING**

JQ, an award-winning structural and civil engineering firm, announced that its chief executive officer Stephen H. Lucy, P.E., is the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award presented by the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University (TAMU).

Distinguished Graduate Award recipients are selected on the criteria of achieving prominence and excelling in the civil engineering profession, improving the quality of educational programs in the department, demonstrating leadership in professional societies or the community, and exhibiting the highest standards of integrity.

Lucy graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University with a Master's in Civil Engineering and has been a professional engineer since 1987. He co-founded the Dallas office of JQ in 1994 and was recently named CEO of the firm, overseeing a team of professionals that provide structural, civil, geospatial and facility performance services to a diverse group of clients throughout the Southwest region.

In addition to his business success, Lucy is active in many civic, academic and construction organizations. Throughout his engineering career, Lucy has advocated for historic preservation and sustainable structures. He is a professional fellow for the Center for Heritage Conservation at TAMU and a past chair of the Advisory Council for the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering. He is also a current member of the Advisory Council for the Dwight Look College of Engineering at TAMU.

Previously, Lucy was named an honorary member of both the Texas Society of Architects and the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his long-standing support of the architectural profession. He is past president of the North Central Texas Chapter and former state director of the Structural Engineers Association of Texas; past president of the Northeast Texas Chapter of the American Concrete Institute; past president of the North Texas Chapter of the International Concrete Repair Institute, and Building Advisory Council member of Preservation Texas. He is also past Board Chair of Canterbury Episcopal School.

"I am honored to have received this recognition and thank my JQ partners who have given me the freedom and support to participate and contribute in so many ways to our profession and to Texas A&M," says Lucy.



Pictured (l to r): John Doucet, P.E., LEED AP, President & CEO at Doucet & Associates, Inc. and Chair of the Advisory to the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at TAMU; Stephen H. Lucy, P.E., Chief Executive Officer of JQ; Robin Autenrieth, Ph.D., Department Head, Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at TAMU A.P. and Florence Wiley Professor III.

JQ has been hiring Texas A&M graduates for more than 25 years, and Lucy enjoys his role in recruiting and mentoring great engineers. “TAMU continues to be a big part of what I do and my life. It isn't the only university JQ focuses on for recruiting but it is the one I focus on, even though my partners are not all Aggies,” says Lucy.

## STRUCTURAL GROUP ACQUIRES FOUR TOPCOR COMPANIES

Structural Group, Inc., has acquired four of the operating units within the TOPCOR Companies, LLC group through an asset acquisition. Those operating companies are: TOPCOR Services, LLC, TOPCOR Offshore, LLC, TOPCOR Augusta, LLC and TOPCOR Mechanical, LLC.

Founded in 1989 and based in Baton Rouge, LA, TOPCOR provides structural restoration and protection services to the chemical, petro-chemical, pulp and paper, power, municipal and federal markets.

“TOPCOR will increase our capabilities, resources, and presence in the gulf coast and the southeastern region of the United States,” said Peter Emmons, President and CEO of Structural Group. “By adding TOPCOR, we have strengthened our team and will have more than 230 additional experienced technicians providing services throughout the industrial and power markets with focused expertise in chemical processing and pulp and paper. TOPCOR’s commitment to quality and safety, approach to customer service and dedication to employee training are a great match to Structural Group’s mission, values, and operating principles.”

“Peter and his group have built a very impressive organization. Their ability to integrate technologies engineering and construction is a great added benefit to TOPCOR’s specialized contracting service,” said James Baker, CEO and founder of TOPCOR Companies. “We at TOPCOR have always looked to Structural Group as the leader in this industry.”

Structural has a strong presence in the south, with offices in Houston, Lake

Charles, and Baton Rouge. The combination of Structural’s strength in the refining industry and TOPCOR’s strength in the chemical processing industry and pulp and paper provides a great complement of expertise and industry knowledge that will allow us to better serve all our clients.

James Baker will join Structural as Vice President of a new division that will include the previous TOPCOR’s offices in Baton Rouge, LA, Augusta, GA, and Charleston, SC, as well as Structural’s current Baton Rouge office.

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Two remaining entities from the TOPCOR Companies group, US Fusion, LLC, and US Railroad, LLC, will continue to operate separately and will not be associated with Structural Group.

The transaction was completed on January 1, 2016. For more information, go to [www.structuralgroup.com](http://www.structuralgroup.com) or [www.topcor.com](http://www.topcor.com).

## WESTERN SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS DONATES CONCRETE REPAIR SERVICES, TWO TRUCKLOADS OF SUPPLIES TO CHICAGO HOMELESS SHELTER

Western Specialty Contractors - Chicago Concrete Restoration Branch paid it forward during the holiday season by donating much-needed supplies and concrete repair work to the Southwest Chicago Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) homeless shelter at 3121 W 71st Street in the Chicago Lawn Neighborhood.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, Western employees delivered two truckloads of donated supplies to the shelter which they had been collecting for the past month. Donated items included clothes, shoes, paper products, dishware and other household items.

Additionally, Western donated chemical grout injection repair work needed on the 62-year-old building where the shelter is



Western Specialty Contractors - Chicago Concrete Restoration Branch Superintendent Josh Cox (left) and Senior Branch Manager Justin Berndt donate collected items to the PADS homeless shelter in the Chicago Lawn Neighborhood.

headquartered. Founded more than 20 years ago, the shelter provides meals, clothing and referrals for additional assistance to homeless individuals and families throughout southwest Chicago. It is funded completely by donations and is staffed by volunteers.

"I had learned about the shelter's needs through our client Revive Architecture who asked that we help the shelter with some minor building repairs. We were happy to donate our services, and also collect items for donation that the shelter was in desperate need of," said Western Senior Branch Manager Justin Berndt. "It

made our employees feel good to help the shelter this holiday season."

## W. R. MEADOWS® EDUCATES ON IMPORTANCE OF AIR, VAPOR, AND MOISTURE BARRIERS VIA NEW AIA-ACCREDITED COURSE

W. R. Meadows recently rolled out a new AIA-accredited presentation to pass on up-to-date information pertaining to the science and importance of air, vapor, and moisture barriers, and how to best prevent air leakage and moisture movement from infiltrating your building envelope.



The course, Controlling Air Leakage and Moisture Movement: The Complete Approach, is one hour long and is designed to provide discussion and insight into the negative impacts on a building envelope that can result without the proper use of air, vapor, and moisture barriers. This program is registered with the AIA/CES for continuing professional education, and is HSW-approved. The course earns one learning unit (LU).

"High performance buildings are constructed to maximize energy efficiency, durability, and overall occupant comfort. As their demand continues to increase, it is important to understand that one of the key aspects of achieving this is proper building envelope design and overall wall system performance," said Russ Snow, Building Science Specialist at W. R. Meadows. "Through the use of control layers within the wall assembly, and their proper placement and installation, the building can be protected from unwanted air and moisture infiltration, ultimately contributing to an energy efficient and durable building. We hope this presentation provides the overall knowledge on how these control layers can contribute."

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