

SPECIGRAM

Official Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

CSI MAR LEAD Conference **AUG 9 - 10 2024** **Liberty Mountain Resort, Fairfield PA**

The Leadership Education and Development Conference (LEAD) is the Region's opportunity to present an overview of the duties and responsibilities of all chapter Officers, Directors and Chairpersons, and focuses on educating and growing new leadership for all chapters within the Mid-Atlantic Region.

SEE CONFERENCE AGENDA on PAGE 2

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Liberty Mountain Resort

located @ 78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320

Call In Reservations. To reserve rooms at the group rate, call Group Reservations at: 855-953-0195 and follow the prompts to your chosen resort.

Reference group code: BLIBAS24.

Room Rate: \$179.00/night plus taxes

We'll see you there!



LEAD CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

FRIDAY, AUG 9, 2024

6:30 – 8:00 PM Dinner w/ Mid Atlantic Meet and Greet

SATURDAY, AUG 10, 2024

7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast - Get to know your neighbors
Grab breakfast from the restaurant and join others in the Overlook.
Come when you can.

8:30 – 9:30 AM **"Building CSI; Find and Support New Members"**Lead - Sharon Clark, MAR VP

9:30 – 9:45 Break

10:00 – 11:30 AM Break-out Session A **"Bill Highway Hands-on"**
Bring your laptop and be prepared to walk through your Bill Highway account along with the presenter.

10:00 – 11:30 AM Break-out Session B **"CSI Roles Round Table"**
Guided discussion with fellow CSI members in similar roles.

11:30 – 12:30 PM Guest Speaker - Brant Lingle
"BUY-in(g) Your Why"
Interest folks in leadership
Improve volunteer follow through
Ignite leadership vision

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 PM Guest Speaker - Brant Lingle
"Improve your leadership by Managing F.A.C.T.S"
Feedback
Attention
Conflict management
Team meetings that propel
Steady agility during change

2:30-3 pm **CSI Leadership Resources** Lead - Stephen Weisensale, MAR Secretary

3:00 - 3:15 PM Afternoon Break

3:15 – 4:15 PM **Let's talk about MAR** Lead - Katherine Good, MAR President

4:15 – 4:45 PM MAR Board meeting | Closing remarks

**LEAD CONFERENCE REGISTRATION / RSVP
(ONE FORM PER ATTENDEE)**

Let us know who is coming from your chapter!

NAME:

CHAPTER:

POSITION:

(My leadership Position (not a requirement for participating))

E-MAIL ADDRESS

ATTENDING:

FRIDAY, AUG 9, 2024 - Dinner Y/ N

6:30 – 8:00 PM Dinner @ Mid Atlantic Meet and Greet

SATURDAY, AUG 10, 2024 Y/ N

LEAD (includes breakfast & lunch)

Give me 3 emojis for your position



Please e-mail this conference registration to:

Sharon Clark AIA, NCARB

O: SClark@Baskervill.com H: shaclark85@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Brian Trimble, P.E.**

July is the changeover for CSI chapters as we move from one fiscal year to another. I am glad to be the president of our esteemed chapter and following in the footsteps of so many great CSI leaders that have come before me. It's been a few tough years with the pandemic, but I think we are in a great position to move forward and expand and grow our chapter. We have a great core of members who are volunteering their time to promote the ideals of CSI. Which, by the way, are to:

- support and promote the mission and core values of the Institute,
- help its members perform their jobs better by providing education and promoting certification programs, and
- provide an opportunity for networking to facilitate project team building.



I joined CSI a long time ago to learn more about the construction industry and have been blessed to hear from some very wise CSI members over the years. I didn't understand the importance of networking at the time, but my association with CSI and its members has provided me dividends over and over. For those of you who may be CSI veterans, you have seen what networking can do by making your jobs easier. For those early in their careers, CSI is a place where you can learn and grow. I really appreciate our members here in Western PA and the fun we have at our meetings. I've enjoyed hearing technical discussions, visiting job sites (who remembers our tour of PPG Paints Arena?) and manufacturing plants. But it's the informal discussions after the technical portion that I have enjoyed the most.

At our summer board meeting we had almost 20 members come out to help set the direction of the chapter. In fact, we had William Sundquist, CSI Institute President, in attendance to provide a spark to our discussions. William's message to us included staying connected since that helps us all do our jobs better. I would love every member to attend at least one meeting over the next year to see us in action. I'd also like to invite you to consider joining a committee because that is where you really get to know other members. Look at the committee list and see if you have an interest in something and let me know.

One thing I do know – its that the CSI Pittsburgh Chapter is full of welcoming people who have a lot of passion in getting projects built in our hometown! Come and join us.

June-July-August Anniversaries

June

24th	William Fiedler	Cintar Engineers
8th	Susan Henshaw	The Bekon Group

July

34th	Gail Nagie	Retired
29th	Catherine Houska	Catherine Houska Consulting LLC
11th	Damian Carnegie	AVT, Inc.
11th	Patrick Harding	A.L. Harding & Co. LLC
6th	Bob Ober	YKK AP American Inc.
2nd	Michael Bosco	
2nd	David Macharola	David Macharola Architects
2nd	Michael Lechleitner	Florida Consulting LLC
2nd	Thomas Seidel	ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions
2nd	Judy Reilly	ABH First Choice
1st	Michael Allegion	Allegion
1st	Benjamin Marnik	RJ Bridges, Corp.

August

43rd	Dennis Buirge	CMD Smith
7th	Benjamin Policchichio	
7th	William Pope	AE Works
4th	Dan Barra	DSS Tri-State ASSA ABLOY
2nd	Scott Keener	Draw Collective
2nd	Carly Helbling	Pella

New Member

Tiffany Devich Peter, AIA	IKM Architecture
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Current Membership: 72

SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Summer Board Meeting - Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 with special guest William Sundquist, Chairman of the CSI Board of Directors

The officers, board of directors, committee chairs, and other interested member met on July 9th for the Chapter's summer board meeting. 15 people were in attendance.

Thank you to Brian Trimble and his wife Jane for hosting this meeting at their home.



July 10, 2024

Dear Brian:

I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation for making yesterday evening memorable for me personally. The members of CSI are the best in our industry, and each of you will always hold a special place in my heart.

I look forward to our journey together over the next two years and will do my best to honor you every day.

Please share this appreciation to all who came and with your board. Again, a big THANK YOU for coming and spending your valuable time in support of CSI and our members.

Wish you all a Wonderful Year!

William Sundquist, FCSI

Institute Board, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD

July 9, 2024 at Trimble Residence

PRESIDENT

Introduction of William Sundquist, CSI Institute President.

Sundquist said our roles are to stay connected to the community and help members be the “best version of themselves”.

Sundquist challenged us to get back to the basics of why CSI started and to think outside the box.

COMMITTEES

Trimble presented “Chapter Responsibilities” for review, along with the “2025 Proposed Committees” list.

MEMBERSHIP

Henshaw, Reilly, Barra & Helbling all wish to be a part of this committee. Could be broken down into “new members” & “retaining members” sub-committees.

PROGRAMS

Each member is a part of this committee, by helping with suggestions for future programs. Brian & Jenna are co-chairs of this committee. Maybe try for (3) tours, (3) programs & (3) social events. Discussion of moving Top Golf to the fall since it is so close to the Spring golf outing. We should look for “what is of current interest” and try to build our programs around the subject. i.e., “AI” and “net zero”.

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Trimble will talk with Helbling to see if interested.

NEWSLETTER

Looking for a volunteer to do the Specigram. “Member Profile” could be the responsibility of the membership committee.

HOSPITALITY

Brown can chair the Holiday Gala. Lander, Thornton & Stilwell will be part of this committee.

TECHNICAL/EDUCATION

This committee may stay dormant since we have a tough time getting members to our regular programs, let alone these events.

CERTIFICATION

Vernon is chair. Looking for members to help with this committee.

AWARDS

Vargo considering chairing this committee.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOARD (CONT'D)

GBA LIAISON

Trimble is the current chair but could use new members.
See comments about Industry liaison committee below.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & BY-LAWS

Typically run by 1st vice president but needs members.

STUDENT OUTREACH

Beres volunteered to approach schools and invite students.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Set up in Spring, as necessary.

GOLF/SPORTING EVENTS

Berra thinking of doing a "clay shoot" in the fall instead of a second golf outing.
Watson would like to help with this committee.

WEBSITE

Schuster chairs this committee. Discussion of moving the website to Bill Highway for hosting.

Suggestion of creating (2) new committees:

1. "Sponsorship Committee" – this committee would be responsible for getting sponsorships for all of our events (Holiday Gala, Top Golf, Golf Outing & Clay Shoot). This is suggested to keep requests from being duplicated by individual committees.

2. "Industry Liaison Committee" – this committee would be responsible for reaching out to AIA, MBA, etc. for joint ventures. Fornataro & Beres expressed interest in this committee

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Changes:

Changes to Future Board composition submitted for approval of membership.

New Bylaw Changes Approved to be distributed to membership.

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

**Join us as we kick off
the 2024-25 CSI Year!**

“Specifications 101”

A group of Pittsburgh leading specifications writers will discuss the basics of specifications writing and the importance of specifications that are Clear, Concise, Correct and Complete.

Come and learn about specifications organization and format, section content, and proper language.

The discussion will also touch on the the legal aspects and implications of specifications.

Location: TBD.

Watch for Chapter emails for further information!

CDT CERTIFICATION



Katelyn Rossier, AIA, CSI, NCARB, LSSBB, and owner at mentorDINO, LLC, just received her CDT Certification. We asked her about her experience with the thought of encouraging others in the AEC community to sit for the exam.

1. Why did you decide to pursue CDT certification?

I have thought about the CDT exam for a number of years, but the reason that got me to take the exam now is my small business, mentorDINO. It is a credential to not only grow my knowledge but a way to prove to myself everything I have learned over the first decade of my career.

2. How did you study and/or prep for the exam?

I mainly did the Cherise Lakeside course through CSI Portland. (Bonus - her course does earn CEU too!) It was a way to force me to go through the material each week. If I just had to read a book, I wouldn't have the motivation to do so. I did go through the book by CSI and went through digital flashcards that Cherise recommended.

The nice part about the CDT exam, unlike the Architecture Registration Exams (AREs), is that it is pretty straightforward on what you need to study and only trust CSI resources. The ARE's is flooded with way too many resources which makes it hard to determine what to trust and how much to study. I didn't feel like I did as much intense studying like I did with taking the Architecture Registration Exams.

I do feel that my work experience was a huge help for my prep work for the exam as well. Many of the sections I learned being in the field, seeing projects from start to finish, and being pushed to wear a lot of hats over the years. There were definitely things that were new or helped to make sense of things. But for me, a majority of the material I had experience to lean on for the exam.

3. How would you describe the exam?

It is a multiple-choice exam with a single answer. There aren't crazy different question types, but they do try to trick you with wording. I made sure I reread each question twice and read every word looking for "not" to pop up. There were two questions that I felt were way out of left field, but everything else was recognizable information from Cherise's course and CSI's study book.

4. What would you want people considering taking the exam to know?

I would want people to understand that this is NOT the specifiers exam. So many people (including FAIA members) just assume that because this exam is with CSI that I wanted to become a specifier. I was more shocked by the lack of knowledge from senior architects. There is a lot of misunderstanding. This is a good exam for all AEC professionals. It is a great exam if you are looking to start studying for the AREs. It is helpful information in a concise format that will help future exams. I know there are a lot of professionals that take the LEED exams before the AREs, and I'd argue to take the CDT exam instead. HOWEVER, the only downside is that you need 2 years of experience first so that may mean delaying the AREs for a bit.

5. What do you see as the value of CDT certification?

The value of the exam highlights my knowledge base of the entire picture of a building project. Understanding what happens not only on the architecture side but all facets of professionals it takes to bring a building to life.

6. Are you considering other CSI certifications?

I am considering the CCS because I want to learn how to properly do specifications. I don't see myself being a dedicated specifier, but I do see the gap in knowledge in the architectural industry on specification experience. I want to get ahead of that and see if there are ways that I can teach others specifications through mentorDINO.

I am looking to take ownership of specifications on my upcoming project that I am going to study the CCS exam to help me through the project. After the experience and practicing on that project I'll look to study more formally to take the actual exam.

7. Are you encouraging your colleagues to seek CSI certification?

I am encouraging first understanding on what the exam tests and the benefits of CSI in general. CSI offers certifications that can help architects do our jobs better. Whereas I feel there are a lot of expensive exams and certifications that professionals never use in their daily workday.

Then depending on the professional, I recommend the right exam for them.

If you are outside the architectural role, like a product rep for instance. I do feel the exam helps to share what happens during the entire life cycle of a project. By taking Cherise's class and listening to questions I gained the perspective that not everyone experiences the full process to understand what happens during different design phases, how different project delivery methods change that process, and the components that occur during construction.



CSI Certification



CDT EXAM PREP FOR THE PROJECT DELIVERY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Project Delivery Education Program (PDEP) provides a comprehensive overview for anyone who writes, interprets, enforces, or manages construction documents. Project architects, contractors, contract administrators, material suppliers, and manufacturers' representatives realize the advantages of being Construction Documents Technologists.

By being able to understand and interpret written construction documents, Construction Document Technologists (CDTs) perform their jobs more effectively. By understanding the roles and relationships of all participants, CDTs improve communication among all members of the construction team.

Getting your CDT means:

- Adding "CDT" after your name, to your business card and to your resume
- Understanding how a project unfolds from conception to delivery
- Gain in-depth knowledge of the documentation involved

Virtual Teams Meeting format with expert lecturers for each topic who will be available to discuss topics. The PDEP is led by experienced industry professionals and is provided by instructors from the Middle Atlantic Regional Chapters.

The course covers the following subject material:

The construction process
Construction contract types
Modifications and substitution procedures
Contractual relationships
Rights, duties, and responsibilities
Contract provisions
Relationship and organization of construction documents
Use of construction documents
Organizational formats
Interpreting construction documents

FALL 2024 SCHEDULE

Class:	9 sessions starting Tuesday, September 10th
Time:	6:00 pm-7:30 pm
Location:	Virtual Classes will be held via Microsoft Teams Meeting
Cost:	Fee is \$50 for CSI members, \$150 for non-members
Registration Deadline:	September 1st, 2024
To register:	Click Here Scholarship opportunity available for those experiencing financial hardship. E-mail: cowens@glaveandholmes.com if you have questions.

- Session 01: Fundamentals - September 10, Winnie Sung & Cindy Cordo
- Session 02: Project Conception & Delivery - September 17, Marvin Kemp
- Session 03: Design Process - September 24, Hana NguyenKyn
- Session 04: Construction Documents – October 1, Bill Vernon
- Session 05: Procurement - October 8, David Stutzman
- Session 06: Pre-Construction - October 15, Kevin Grega, Chris Atwood
- Session 07: Construction - October 22, Clint Newton
- Session 08: Life Cycle Activities - Monday, October 29, John Spain
- Session 09: AIA A201: General Conditions - November 5, Mitch Miller or Katherine Good

CSI and AIA members earn 1 LU for each presentation they attend by self-reporting. Each class is taught by industry leaders that can answer questions and provide important insights. Classes include presentations that are supplemented with short quizzes that help reinforce the content of each session.

Our thanks to the CSI Middle Atlantic Regional Board and CSI Institute for the support of CSI's Project Delivery Education Training Program!



Construction Documents Technology (CDT)

CDT credentials are evidence of proven knowledge, education, and experience with construction documents and project delivery. Holding a certification demonstrates professional commitment, credibility, and reliability to employers, colleagues, and clients.

Class Materials

All class participants are required to purchase:
the [Project Delivery Practice Guide, 3rd Edition \(PDPG\)](#)
the [CDT Study Workbook](#) (recommended)
and download the free [CDT Handbook](#)
All material is available at the [CSI Bookstore](#)

Project Delivery Practice Guide, 3rd Edition

The Project Delivery Practice Guide (PDPG) provides fundamental knowledge for the documentation, administration, and successful delivery of construction projects and focuses on leading project delivery methods and the steps in each to deliver quality work that fulfills owner intent. The PDPG will define the roles and responsibilities of every party, the deliverables during each phase of the facility life cycle, and the types of information flow that help ensure a successful project.

PDPG Pricing:

- CSI Member price (Printed Book and Electronic Copy): \$119
- CSI Member price (Electronic Copy): \$99
- Non-member price (Printed Book and Electronic Copy): \$169
- Non-member price (Electronic Copy): \$139

CSI CDT Study Workbook [Digital Workbook in PDF Format]

The CDT Study Workbook is designed to be used with the Project Delivery Practice Guide, 3rd Edition by candidates preparing for the Construction Documents Technology (CDT) Certification Exam. This digital workbook is comprised of interactive elements to enhance your learning experience.



Workbook features include:

- 100+ interactive learning activities
- 35 case studies for real-world knowledge application
- Self-assessments to customize your learning
- Inline answer key functionality
- Cross reference of PDPG sections, figures, and tables

Workbook Pricing:

- CSI Members = \$49.95
- Non-Members = \$79.95

CDT Handbook for Certification Candidates -PDF- FREE

The CDT Handbook for Certification Candidates is a free resource. It contains pertinent information regarding candidate requirements, application procedures, knowledge domains, reference materials, and CSI certification policies.

JOIN CSI TODAY AND SAVE!

Leverage your CDT Certification by joining CSI and save money in the process! Becoming a member saves on the cost of the exam, the practice guide, and study workbook! For more information on the benefits of joining the CSI chapter.

[click here](#)

Listed prices are subject to change. For the most reliable information, go to csiresources.org



[A hearty 'Thank You' and note of appreciation
to our sponsors of the Top Golf event
on June 11, 2024](#)

Cascade Construction Products

R J Bridges Corp.

ABH First Choice

Security 101

Trulite

**SEPTEMBER 10th, 2024 -- CSI PITTSBURGH
"Specifications 101"**

Location: TBD

**OCTOBER 16th-18th, 2024 -- CSI NATIONAL
National Conference**

Houston, TX

<https://www.csinationalconference.org/home>

If you are interested in attending the 2024 CSI National Conference, use this link to sign up to receive the latest updates and news:

<https://constsi.realmagnet.land/national-conference-early-access>



Pittsburgh Must Embrace The Shade

Reprinted from The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 13th, 2024.

Pittsburgh is the coolest big city in Pennsylvania. And while the city can thank its unique geography for keeping the cloud cover steady, its equally unique tree canopy helps keeps temperatures lower than in other cities. It's vital to preserve and build out this canopy as a community asset with unique community health benefits.

Trees encourage sociability and going outside; they reduce the chill of the wind in winter and absorb light and heat in the summer; and they are one of the few ways we can fight the impact of extreme weather in the age of climate change.

Pittsburgh already has one of the largest urban forests in the country. Approximately 40% of the city enjoys the canopy of leaves and branches, compared to Philadelphia's roughly 20%. But that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement, or that the existing canopy will always be there.

Allegheny County's canopy coverage has been shrinking at a rate of about 2% every five years, according to the Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance.

Not only is the forest around Pittsburgh shrinking, but our most vulnerable neighborhoods are already in desperate need. In Pittsburgh as in other cities, poorer neighborhoods generally have less tree cover.

Embrace The Shade (cont'd)

And it can save lives. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reported that increasing tree cover by 10% can reduce heat-related mortality “significantly.” Researchers in Barcelona reported to Forbes that “nearly 40% of [heat-related] deaths could have been prevented if urban tree cover were increased up to 30%.”

Heroic efforts are being made by a coalition that includes Tree Pittsburgh, as well as eight local partners who make up the Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance: Allegheny County Conservation District, Allegheny Goat Scape, Allegheny Land Trust, Friends of the Riverfront, Landforce, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, UrbanKind Institute and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. As temperatures continue to break records, it's important to mitigate the urban heat island effect — where cities experience temperatures on average two to five degrees higher than their surroundings. In Philadelphia, the difference between neighborhoods with and without trees can be 22 degrees. Here in Pittsburgh, that's closer to 10 degrees, which still represents major relief.

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REVISED LIST OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CSI Pittsburgh Committee Chairs - FY 2025

Awards	Miki Vargo (tentative) – Chair
Certification	Bill Vernon – Chair
Hospitality / Holiday Party	Kelly Brown – Chair Matt Lander – Co-chair Marty Thornton – Holiday Party Coordinator
Industry Liaisons	Joanna Beres Judy Reilly Brian Trimble
Membership	Bob Bailey Dan Barra Carly Helbling Susan Henshaw Judy Reilly
Newsletter	Bob Bailey – Editor
Nominating / Tellers Committee	Matt Lander – Chair
Programs	Jenna Glover – Chair Brian Trimble – Co-chair
Publicity / Social media	Carly Helbling – Chair
Sponsorships	open
Sporting Events	Dan Barra – Chair
Strategic Planning	Dan Barra – Chair
Student Outreach	Joanna Beres LouAnn Fornataro
Technical/Education	Bill Cauley - Chair
Website	Kate Schuster – Chair

Pittsburgh Chapter Leadership FY 2025

Officers

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Committees

Awards

-- open --

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Sponsorships

-- open --

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Strategic Planning

Mr. Dan Barra, CSI
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Student Outreach

-- open --

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