

2017 NCR Election Candidate Profile

Please attach a recent color photograph suitable for printing in jpeg format.

Note: All information may be published on the NCR or Institute Website



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for Office of: Institute Director elected from the North Central Region

Full Name w/suffix: Alan B. Itzkowitz, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, ALA, NCARB, LEED®AP, SCIP

Year Joined CSI: 1987 **Home Chapter:** Chicago

Firm: ABI Specifications Consulting

Occupation/Position: Owner/Specifications Consultant

Email: alan.itzkowitz@gmail.com

Work Phone*: 224-698-7732 **Cell Phone*:** 847-602-1737

*Phone numbers will not be published, but used by the Institute Secretary to convey election results.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Education (Degrees & Dates): University of Illinois at Chicago, Bachelor of Architecture in Structures 1973
DePaul University, Masters in Business Administration (Systems) 1979

Professional Registrations, Licenses and Certifications (Include CSI Certifications):

- Licensed Architect, Illinois, 1979
- Licensed Architect, Louisiana, 2000
- Licensed Architect, Indiana, 2004
- Licensed Architect, Colorado, 2006
- Construction Documents Technologist, 1995
- Certified Construction Specifier, 1995
- Certified Construction Contract Administrator, 1998
- Record Holder, NCARB, 2000
- MasterFormat™ Accredited Instructor, 2006
- LEED Accredited Professional, 2009

Other Professional/Civic Organizations and Awards:

Chicago Chapter:

- FY1993 CDT Class Instructor
- FY1994 CDT Class Instructor
- FY1995 CDT Class Instructor
- FY1996 CDT Class Instructor
- FY1997 CDT Class Instructor
- FY1998 CDT Class Instructor
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- FY2002 CDT Class Instructor
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- FY2004 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2005 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2006 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2007 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2008 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2009 CDT Class Instructor
- FY2010 CDT Class Instructor

FY2011 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor
FY2012 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor
FY2013 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor

Northern Illinois Chapter:

FY1999 CDT Class Instructor
FY2000 CDT Class Instructor
FY2001 CDT Class Instructor
FY2002 CDT Class Instructor
FY2003 CDT Class Instructor
FY2004 CDT Class Instructor

Seminar Presenter:

Presentation to members of a local contractor association. The presentation included sections on the "Project Team and Project Phases" and "Drawings and Specifications." The "Project Team and Project Phases" section gave attendees an understanding of the composition and responsibilities of each of the four components of project teams that come together in a project as well as knowledge of the activities and documents produced during each stage of the project and the team member responsible. The "Drawings and Specifications" section gave attendees an understanding of what the basic roles of drawings and specifications are and how the A/E standardizes and coordinates the Construction Documents into a collaborative, effective, and productive product.

September 2010: Masonry Contractors Association of Greater Chicago

Presentation to product representatives of various organizations and companies. The presentation included sections on how specifications are written, the substitution process, and a section titled "Some Questions to Ponder" that reviewed the value of master specifications (both guide specs and specification systems), how product selections are made and by whom, the use of product binders versus manufacturer's websites, and the qualities, both good and bad, of product representatives.

April 2011: Miller Brooks Symposium titled "Marketing to the A+D Community: Engage, Interact and Connect with Architects and Designers."

May 2011: Tubelite, Inc.

March 2013: Sto Corporation

January 2014: Crane Composites

Multiple presentations to office staff. These presentations included sections on how specifications are written, the substitution process and how to enforce it, and how product selections are made and by whom.

1989 - 2007: Earth Tech, Inc.

2007 - 2010: DeStefano Partners

Awards:

FY1994 Honorable Mention, Construction Specifications Institute: Annual specifications competition for the Municipal Building HVAC System Modifications project, Hanover Park, Illinois.
FY1995 Honorable Mention, Construction Specifications Institute: Annual specifications competition for the outline specification prepared for the Noise Abatement Project at Forest View Educational Center, School District 214, Arlington Heights, Illinois.
FY2001 Dick Dashner Memorial Award for Service, Northern Illinois Chapter: "For your devoted and selfless service to the Northern Illinois Chapter. As a leader in innovation, you are presented this Award on the 17th day of May 2001."

- FY2012 President's Award, Chicago Chapter: "For rendering distinguished service to CSI and the Chicago Chapter by significant dedication and contribution of time and talent in organizing and executing the Chapter's Certification Study Class. You are presented this Certification of Appreciation in March 2012."
- FY2016 President's Plaque (Institute): For your exceptional contributions to the improvement of the CCPR exam for the Spring 2015 exams, your dedication in continuing to serve on the CMG, to ensure the work continues from exam cycle to exam cycle, and mentoring new members of the group to guarantee cross-training in maintaining the exam, as the primary contributors of the CSI Certified Construction Product Representative program, and implementing industry changes to the CSI Certification Body of Knowledge to the exams, you are hereby presented with this President's Plaque on the first day of October 2015, at CONSTRUCT 2015 & The CSI Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO.
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Current/Previous Experience as a CSI Chapter Leader:

- Chicago Chapter:
- FY1991 Director
 - FY1992 Director
 - FY2011 Certification Chair
 - FY2012 Certification Chair
 - FY2013 Certification Chair
 - FY2014 Director, Certification Chair
 - FY2015 Director and CSi2eye Committee Member
 - FY2016 Director

Northern Illinois Chapter:

- FY1992 Director
 - FY1993 Director
 - FY1994 Director
 - FY1995 Director
 - FY1996 Secretary
 - FY1997 Secretary, Electronic Communications Chair, Technical Chair
 - FY1998 President-Elect, Awards Chair
 - FY1999 President, Electronic Communications Chair, Academic Liaison, Planning Chair, Professional Development Chair, Technical Chair, Product Show Chair, Newsletter Editor, Electronic Communications Chair
 - FY2000 Immediate Past President
 - FY2001 Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Electronic Communications Chair
 - FY2012 Treasurer
 - FY2013 Treasurer
 - FY2014 Treasurer
 - FY2015 Chapter Treasurer and Treasurer for Bi-Region Conference with North Central and Great Lakes Regions
 - FY2016 Treasurer
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Current/Previous Experience as a CSI Region Leader

Current/Previous Experience as a CSI Institute Leader:

- FY2014 Certification Maintenance Group Member
 - FY2015 Certification Maintenance Group Member
 - FY2016 Certification Maintenance Group Member
 - FY2017 Certification Strategic Group Member
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Current/Previous Experience as a Board Member for Organization(s) other than CSI:

Religious Organization: Committee chair for various committees

NARRATIVE

The following questions may be published as part of the candidate profile shared with voting members. Please limit your responses to 500 words.

1. Candidate Statement (This section is for opened-ended comments to the Nominating Committee and NCR membership regarding your qualifications for the position. You are strongly encouraged to include a description of your most significant CSI positions and awards received.):

I joined CSI and the Northern Illinois Chapter in 1987 at the urging of a colleague and have never regretted it. After attending my first few meetings I was encouraged to participate on the Board of Directors and on committees. Since that time, I have held every Board position, most recently as Chapter Treasurer, and chaired or participated on numerous committees. When I changed companies, I joined the Chicago Chapter and have been a Director on the Board, along with serving as the chair of the Certification Committee and participating as a member of numerous committees.

I am a proponent of the Certification process and have served on the Certification Maintenance Group (CMG) for the last three years and currently serve on the Certification Strategic Group. My work on the CMG required an intimate knowledge of CSI's Practice Guides. As a Certified Construction Specifier and Certified Construction Contract Administrator, my knowledge as a subject matter expert has resulted in the expansion of the CCA Certification test item banks and the review and updating of existing items. My input to the Group discussions has resulted in changes to existing items in the CDT, CCS and CCPR item banks.

I have received awards in the 1994 and 1995 CSI Specifications Competitions and many Certificates of Merit and Appreciation from the Chapters, but the most important honor I have received as a CSI member was my recent elevation to Fellowship in CSI.

Being a mentor has been an important part of my career, mentoring young specifiers and assisting product representatives gain perspective on the work of writing specifications. I have mentored several young specifiers in the Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters, answering their questions and helping improve their skills to produce high quality specifications. These specifiers have gone on to become successful architects and specification writers of their own accord with knowledge of how specifications become an integral part of the Contract Documents for a project.

Coming up to my 30 year anniversary as a member of CSI, I am constantly promoting membership in CSI and participation in local chapters along with CSI's certificate and certification programs, helping the chapters grow and more architects, engineers, and product representatives become involved in CSI activities and programs.

2. What leadership skills do you possess that you could apply as a member of CSI's Board?

As I grew in my career as an Architect and Specification Writer, I learned the value of becoming a good leader. In addition to the leadership roles I have had in the Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters, I have led several project teams that consisted of the many disciplines that are involved in large projects. Helping and encouraging teams to work together is the most important trait of an effective leader, in addition to being able to listen to your staff, analyze the issues presented, and delegating responsibility to complete the tasks at hand. By becoming an Institute Director, I can take the leadership skills and experience I have and reach a larger "team" that works together to further the mission and goals of the Institute.

3. What skills and experience make you uniquely qualified for the position for which you are a candidate?

In addition to my CSI experience as a Board member for two Chapters and as Treasurer of the Northern Illinois Chapter, my experience as a Senior Project Manager in a large architectural/engineering firm and, more importantly, a business owner over the last 6 years, I have a good understanding of the financial workings of organizations. I have prepared and managed budgets; dealt with billings, accounts receivables, and accounts payables; participated in business development activities; and managed project teams, all for both the projects I've managed and my own company. Not being focused on one task, it gives me a better understanding of the whole of the organization's workings.

4. What do you think should be changed about CSI or what changes would you make? What shouldn't change about CSI?

What we primarily need to change is how CSI is perceived by others. People outside of our membership aren't fully aware of CSI and what we do for the industry. I have spoken with Architects who refer to "CSI specs" but don't have a full understanding of what it takes to create a spec. CSI needs to promote itself and the standards developed over the years to more non-members and those outside of the industry to give us more value.

We also need to bring our Certification program in line with ASTM and ISO standards to continue to make it relevant to the industry and national/international standards.

The importance of the structure of CSI is that it is an organization made up of all disciplines in the construction industry, including owners, facility managers, design professionals, contractors, and product representatives/manufacturers. This is what makes CSI unique among industry organizations and should be maintained.

5. What would you like to see in CSI's next Strategic Plan?

The major concerns I have about the future of CSI are the following:

1. Continued improvement and expansion of the education and Certification programs, including bringing the Certification program in line with ASTM and ISO standards.
2. Developing a plan to find, nurture, and mentor future specifiers that will eventually replace the vast knowledge and experience our current specifier members have.
3. CSI has continually been in the forefront of developing the technologies being used in the development of construction documents. We need to strive to continue doing this as new technologies in the preparation of construction documents and development of products emerge.