

Valarie J. Harris, FCSI

"In recognition of your personal integrity, enthusiastic spirit, and steadfast commitment in creating lifelong dedicated members for CSI; for your inspiration and encouragement of others to exceed beyond their own expectations; for your invaluable guidance in quietly handling divisive issues behind the scenes, and for your dedicated service as a passionate promoter of CSI, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 1st day of April 2006."
Las Vegas, NV



VALARIE J. HARRIS joined CSI in 1991, soon after she had been promoted to explore a new market for Accuride drawer slides, specifications by architects and designers. At CSI she found a group of interested and supportive people. Then she discovered the Construction Documents Technologist program. Finally, an explanation of why she could say the exact same thing to different architects and get radically different answers. And then on to Certified Construction Product Representative.

Valarie recognized that she enjoyed working with architects and construction projects. Also, that the people she met in CSI were the ones who would be most likely to know where future jobs were working in this market. And she was right, as times and companies changed. She has found three different jobs through contacts made in CSI. She currently works for Stanley Security Solutions with their hardware consulting group.

In the Los Angeles Chapter, she jumped in pretty much anywhere her help was needed. She has been involved in planning four region conferences. Including co-chair of the Tri-Region Conference in Las Vegas and West Region Conference in Monterey, California.

She was elected Institute Director and Vice President Industry. As Institute Director she was also West Region President, where her collaborative style and good communications skills helped communications within the Region improve dramatically. The six Directors who have followed her have continued the newsletter column, "The West Region Corner," which she started.

She served as Nominating Committee Chair during the implementation of a bylaws change. Her committee dug deep, committed a lot of time and passion into a system for selecting leaders that will help the best and the brightest from every corner of CSI rise to leadership.

Valarie's passion remains mentoring. She has seen so many fellow CSI members grow and blossom to be successful in ways they did not expect. Several have become active at Institute and contributed in ways that are yet to fully play out. She is particularly proud of all the bright hardworking students she has met through the Cal Poly CSI club. She enjoys watching them grow into adults with families and careers all with respect for and understanding of the principles of CSI.

CSI Membership

Los Angeles Chapter, 1991
Orange County Chapter, 1991 to 2002
San Diego Chapter, 2002 to 2004

Institute Offices, Committees

Institute Director, West Region, FY 202w-2003
Vice President, Industry, FY 2005
Specification Competition Committee FY 2005
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, FY 2005
Nominating Committee, FY 2008, Chair, FY 2009

Region Offices, Committees

Co-chair, Tri-Region Conference, FY 1996-1998
Region Vice President, FY 2001
Region President, FY 2003
Advisor, FY 2004-2006
Chair, Governance Task team, FY 2004-2006
Co-chair, Region Conference, FY 2008

Awards

Institute Commendation, Tri-Region Conference, 1998
Los Angeles Chapter, numerous since 1993
West Region Directors Awards, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005