

Cherise S. Lakeside, FCSI

"For your passion in promoting CSI Standards and principles; for your continuous efforts in encouraging CSI certification to both members and non-members; for your dynamic leadership in engaging Young Professionals and creating the Young Professionals program at the annual convention; for your exemplary "Can do!" attitude; and for your fearless refusal to accept things simply "Because that's the way we've always done it!" you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the tenth day of October, 2019."
National Harbor, Maryland



Cherise Lakeside began her career in the AEC industry at the age of 17 as a receptionist at Emerick Construction.

That first job in construction led to another at Architects SLX in 1986, where she worked for 22 years. One of the principals, Chuck Selig, was a charter member of the Portland Chapter. The three principals mentored Cherise in everything Architecture, except design. She is a "trained in the trenches" spec writer mentored by three men who demanded excellence. She also learned about business practices, construction and contract administration, accounting, project planning, marketing, and pretty much anything related to a medium sized firm.

In 2007, the firm closed, and Cherise found herself unemployed. Soon after, she was hired to write specs and set company standards at Interface Engineering, a large MEP consulting firm. Cherise expanded her experience there by working in a different discipline.

She eventually moved back to Architecture at Ankrom-Moisan Architects, and then LSW Architects. Recently, Cherise moved to RDH Building Science as their Senior Specifications Writer for nine offices in two countries, with 350 staff.

One of the first things she did after joining CSI was take the Portland Chapter's CDT class. One of her instructors was Richard Heiserman, FCSI. Because she asked a lot of questions in that class, Rick and Russ Pickett asked her to serve on the Chapter board. Starting as a Director, she went on to serve as president and in various committee positions, and eventually was elected to the Institute Board.

Cherise has taught the CDT education program for the last eight years, co-founded the "Let's Fix Construction" website with Eric Lussier of the Vermont Chapter, presented hundreds of speaking/teaching engagements, participated in podcasts, developed and ran the Young Professionals (YP) Day for five years at Construct, participated on the Construct Advisory Board, and wrote countless blogs and articles.

Many CSI members and Fellows guided, mentored, or inspired Cherise along the way, believing in her when she did not believe in herself. She thanks the entire Portland Chapter for their love and support.

Two Fellows (and people very dear to Cherise) were instrumental in encouraging her to pursue the path to Fellowship. Rick Heiserman and Sheldon Wolfe sought to mentor, guide, harass, and encourage her to accept nomination for this honor, for which she will be forever grateful. She was honored to have one of her all-time favorite people, the King Curmudgeon himself (Sheldon), present her to the CSI Community as a Fellow, and to read her citation.

Because of the amazing amount of mentoring Cherise received throughout her career, she is committed to giving back by teaching, speaking, and young professional development. She is passionate about helping YP's succeed and has been teaching the CDT and mentoring YP's since she became a member.

Her motto is "Total World Domination," and she claims that "It's not what you get, it's what you give."

CSI Membership

Portland Oregon Chapter, 2011

Institute Offices, Committees

Practice Area Curriculum Committee, FY 2013-2018

CSI Academies Planning Committee, FY 2015

Director-at-Large, FY 2017-2020

Board of Directors Membership Communications Sub-Committee, FY 2017-2020

Honors and Awards Committee, FY 2020-2021

Awards

Institute

Institute President's Award, 2014

Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 2015 and 2016

Communications Award, 2015

Outstanding Contribution Award, 2016

Northwest Region

Publications Commendation, 2018