

Susan W. Bliss, FCSI

"For your commitment and contributions to the mission of the Institute through improvement of construction specifications, education, and service; for your passionate and creative mentorship and guidance of "the next generation of specifiers;" for your outstanding and inspiring work in education programs, videos, and publications; and for your many years of active participation in the Dallas Chapter Certification Committee, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 23rd day of September 2021."
Nashville, Tennessee



SUSAN BLISS began her specifications career in a small town, in a one-architect office, as a secretary with clerical duties that included typing (yes, on a typewriter) specifications transcribed from pages of yellow legal pads. With an insatiable desire to learn and to serve, she asked question after question about the content of the specifications so she could assist with the inevitable last-minute rush to produce them for projects.

Susan had seen mailings from CSI for years, so upon moving to the Dallas area in 1996, she joined the Dallas Chapter and found what she had been missing – a place to keep learning and to find mentors and friends. She immediately took the CDT and CCS exams, which at that time were offered on the same day, and passed both. The following year, Susan passed the CCCA exam as a result of her years of construction administrative work along with learning specifications.

With her desire to learn, it wasn't surprising that her first chapter position was on the Technical Committee, where she soon became Technical Chair and received chapter, region, and Institute awards for her role, which included developing technical programs to capture and pass on years of knowledge from senior specifiers and product representatives. The theme of learning and growing continued with service as Chapter Certification Chair. Susan served as an instructor for the Dallas CDT course for over 20 years.

In 2001, with Richard C. Robinson, FCSI, Susan served as Co-Chair for the National Convention in Dallas. This, along with the time spent on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Manual of Practice, are two highlights of her service. She is pleased to have the opportunity to serve on the Institute's Academics Committee.

As Susan grew as a specifier, her passion evolved from her own learning into the practice of teaching others. Following in the footsteps of those who mentored and trained her, such as Douglas C. Hartman, FCSI, she blazed her own path, and mentors and trains others through CDT study courses, as well as through Spec-LAB, an online educational website she developed.

Susan developed a proven, repeatable process for training specifiers from newly entering the industry to achieving CCS status and beyond. She provides membership in CSI to her employees and strongly encourages participation. In 2021, two of her young specifiers moved into board positions for the Dallas Chapter.

Susan is thankful for CSI and the opportunities and relationships CSI has given her. From local participation to service on Institute committees, each brings new knowledge and new friends.

CSI Membership

Dallas, 1995

Institute Offices, Committees

Academics Program Committee, member, FY 2020-2021
Manual of Practice Editorial Advisory Board, FY 1999-2001

Region Offices, Committees

Technical Chair, FY 1997-1999

Awards

Institute

Robert B. Brousseau Award for the Advancement of CSI, 2020

Technical Commendation, 1998

Region

Region Technical Award, 1998.

Chapter

Douglas C. Hartman Special Service Recognition Award, 2021

Specifications Proficiency Award, 1999