

## CERTIFICATION

### AISC and Steel Erectors Collaborate to Improve Erector Certification Requirements

AISC has revised its indemnity agreement for certified erectors to make it more equitable for all parties. “Before, the indemnification clause only protected AISC; now it goes both ways, with each party indemnifying each other,” explained Mark Trimble, AISC’s vice president of certification.

The question that resulted in the change was raised by a program participant, who also shared the concern with the Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA). AISC staff and SEAA members collaborated and the result is language that protects both AISC and the certified companies.

AISC’s certification program for erectors is designed to make sure quality is built in from the start of a project. “AISC certification goes far beyond product inspection requirements; it ex-

amines a company’s quality management systems as a whole,” Trimble explained. “The program results in a quality management system embedded within an organization to increase productivity, which helps to reduce unnecessary costs and ensure the quality of processes. The result is better quality without the need for special inspection. AISC-certified companies are required to have a complete QMS (quality management system) that covers the entire fabrication or erection process, from quality goals to employee training to product delivery. The goal is to make the company better, every day, while also providing outstanding value to the project’s owner.”

For more information on AISC’s certification program, please visit [www.aisc.org/certification](http://www.aisc.org/certification).

## JOISTS

### SJI Announces Design Award Winners

The Steel Joist Institute recently announced the winners of its 2017 Design Awards, which are presented in three categories: industrial, non-industrial and unique. This year’s winners are:

- **Industrial:** The Method Home Products Factory project in Chicago. This project called for new construction of a manufacturing and warehouse facility featuring a 6,000 sq. ft office mezzanine, solar thermal hot water, photovoltaic solar panels, roof top greenhouse and daylight harvesting. The open web steel joists allow in natural light from the 40 skylights, and support a 2-acre greenhouse on part of the roof. The project included 400 tons of steel joists and joist girders.
- **Non-industrial:** The Gerald Ford International Airport Parking Deck Roof in Grand Rapids, Mich. Since the original construction in 2011, this airport has never used the top parking deck during the winter. With over 600 pieces at 62 ft long, the joists were too long for single dip galvanizing, resulting in each joist being fabricated with a custom matched bolted splice

at the center. Steel joists were lighter in weight and more economical than using wide flange beams. Vulcraft/Vercro Group (an AISC member) manufactured the steel joists, and Builders Iron (an AISC member) was the project’s steel fabricator.

- **Unique:** Philip Simmons High School in Charleston, S.C. The project covers 214,000 sq. ft and includes 275 tons of joist and joist girders, featuring 120-in. deep girders spanning 118 ft by 100 in., deep double pitched top chord “gable” joists spanning 60 ft, and KCS joists in addition to sloping parallel chord underslung joists. The use of sloping joists and double pitched top chord joists offered the architect the ability to design high and low roofs that blend with the architecture style of the Charleston area. Canam Steel Corporation (an AISC member) served as the steel joist manufacturer, and D & T Steel, Inc. (an AISC member) was the project’s steel fabricator.

For more about the competition, visit <https://steeljoist.org>.

## People

**Robert J. Connor, PhD**, a professor with the Purdue University School of Civil Engineering and director of the school’s S-BRITE Center, has been selected as the winner of the 2018 AISC T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award.

“Rob was nominated for a number of papers, primarily on fatigue and bridge design,” said Larry Kruth, PE, AISC’s vice president of engineering and research. “His papers ‘State-of-the-Art Fracture Characterization I: Master Curve Analysis of Legacy Bridge Steels’ and ‘State-of-the-Art Fracture Characterization II: Correlations between Charpy V-Notch and the Master Curve Reference Temperature,’ both published in the *ASCE Journal of Bridge Engineering*, were particularly notable to the awards jury.”

Connor has worked in the areas of fatigue, fracture and other issues related to steel bridges for over 20 years. He received the George S. Richardson Medal in 2016 and an AISC Special Achievement Award in 2012, and was the first recipient of the Robert J. Dexter Memorial Lecture Award in 2005.

The Higgins Award will be presented to Connor at the 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Baltimore, taking place April 11-13 (visit [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc) for more information; registration will open soon). For more information about the award, please visit [www.aisc.org/higgins](http://www.aisc.org/higgins).



## BRIDGES

**"Most Beautiful" Bridge Restored and Rededicated**

The refurbished Dodge Street Overpass in Omaha, Neb., recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a rededication ceremony. Danielle Kleinhans, PE, PhD, AISC's vice president of bridges and managing director of NSBA, was in attendance to reaffirm the bridge's "Most Beautiful Bridge" designation from AISC in 1969, an award category used by the historical version of today's Prize Bridge Awards program, and unveil a new plaque for the steel bridge. Mayor Jean Stothert and other city officials, as well as students from a neighboring elementary school and relatives of the original architect, Roger DuRand, were also in attendance to recognize the original 1968 dedication of this iconic pedestrian bridge.

"AISC and NSBA are thrilled to see the preservation of one of our historical award winning bridges," said Kleinhans.

"This project is a classic example that using steel creates beautiful yet highly functional works of art that connect communities. We are proud to have been a part of this project through the donation of a new plaque and the donation of the original plaque to Omaha's Durham Museum to be displayed, preserving the history of the region."

A neighborhood organization, Friends of the Bridge, formed a private-public effort that raised \$150,000 from 150 donors, which helped cover the \$340,000 refurbishment cost for the bridge. City of Omaha bridge maintenance funds matched the private fundraising effort. Restoration work included lead-paint removal and repainting, deck resurfacing, base stabilization and new historical and landmark signs.

For more about the bridge restoration, visit [www.dodgestreetoverpass.org](http://www.dodgestreetoverpass.org).



## NASCC

**Sculpture Finalists Headed to the Steel Conference**

Nine structural steel sculptures were entered into this year's Steel Sculpture Competition by AISC full and associate members, for a chance to become one of five finalists on display at the 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Baltimore, April 11-13. The finalists were chosen at [www.aisc.org/sculpturecompvoting](http://www.aisc.org/sculpturecompvoting), where fans were able to view photos of the sculptures and vote for their favorites. The ultimate winner will be selected by conference attendees.

The five finalists headed to The Steel Conference are: "Steel Time for Growth" by High Steel Structures, LLC; "Steel Is Only As Strong As Those Who Fabricate It" by Cody Builders Supply; "Point of Inspiration" by Cody Builders Supply; "A Novel Idea" by Novel Iron Works; and "Heavy Metal Thunder" by High Steel Structures, LLC.

For information about The Steel Conference, visit [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc). Conference registration will open early next year.

**STEEL TIME FOR GROWTH**  
High Steel Structures LLC



**STEEL IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THOSE WHO FABRICATE IT**  
Cody Builders Supply

**POINT OF INSPIRATION**  
Cody Builders Supply



2017 **Steel Day** Steel Sculpture Competition  
**CONGRATS FINALISTS!**

See you in Baltimore for the 2018 NASCC: The Steel Conference



**A NOVEL IDEA**  
Novel Iron Works



**"HEAVY METAL THUNDER"**  
High Steel Structures LLC