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Building Commissioning Association Presents Benner Awards to McKinstry and Diana Bjørnskov

Hillsboro, Oregon, October 21, 2022— The Building Commissioning Association (BCx A) has awarded the 2021 Benner Awards.

At the Building Commissioning Association (BCx A) Annual Conference on September 22, 2022, Executive Director Liz Fischer presented two Benner Awards recognizing an organization and an individual for significant contributions to the building industry and commissioning profession. These annual awards are named after Ms. Nancy Benner, a pioneer in advancing commissioning as a cross-functional profession for improving building design, construction, and performance.

McKinstry started in building commissioning when their owner, George Allen, had the vision to include commissioning on each of their design-build projects, a philosophy that still stands 30 years later. George had the foresight to see commissioning as the opportunity to improve the quality of design and construction through an owner's rep that would provide a quality assurance lens to project delivery.

George helped set the stage for commissioning to reduce risk on McKinstry projects and helped lead the early steps to what has become an integral part of how McKinstry sees commissioning as a best practice for removing waste from the construction and operation of buildings today. George was famous for describing his commissioning team as a “band of ninja’s, keeping McKinstry out of trouble”.

Since then, the McKinstry Commissioning Team has grown to nearly 150 CxP’s in 26 offices in 5 major regions of the US. Additionally, McKinstry has supported the BCx A’s efforts for education, advocacy, and best practices, with thousands of hours of volunteer support in the Association’s committees, chapters, and Board of Directors. Many of their commissioning providers are members and Certified Commissioning Professional’s (CCP) – helping to continue to support the BCx A.

The second award winner is probably best known as “the voice and conscience of Commissioning.” Her work in getting the messaging out in writing whether it is hers or helping others is legendary.

Kent Barber has called her “a steadfast believer and supporter of Cx from its early days, and yet many commissioning providers and built environment professionals don’t know who she is.” We are here to rectify that. Tom Poeling thinks of her “as the ‘Chief Storyteller’ of the BCx A. She has set the narrative for our organization.”

Bill McMullen, said, “There is nobody in this profession that can articulate the value and technical concepts of commissioning to seasoned experts, beginners, and stakeholders as well as her.”

She has over 40 years in the buildings industry with a focus on energy efficiency, understanding the markets, doing research and analysis, and of course writing papers, articles, and presentations. In addition to her own writing, she has been editing documents to help others get a quality message about the value of commissioning for years. Diana has mastered the art of *effective* communication.

As John Villani put it, “This person has formed the cornerstone, by literally writing it. Pick up any commissioning manual and her name is on it!”

She has been the editor/developer of the monthly BCxA Checklist since its inception. She has been helping craft our strategic plans, marketing messaging, Best Practices and of course there is the multitude of published papers, articles and books.

To learn more about BCxA’s award programs, please visit <https://www.bcx.org/conference/awards/>.

About BCxA

The Building Commissioning Association (BCxA) is an international non-profit organization that serves as the recognized authority and resource on commissioning. Our membership is made up of professionals from the commercial building industry, committed to the highest standards and practices for the commissioning process. Our mission is to guide the building commissioning industry by advancing best practices and education throughout the building industry, and promoting the benefits of building commissioning to achieve buildings that work. The BCxA supports certification programs that set a high bar for the commissioning professionals who manage the total building commissioning process. Learn more at www.bcx.org.

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