2015 ASSE Scholarships

2015 ASSE Practice Specialty Scholarship: Chad Lannon, University of Maryland College Park

The ASSE Practice Specialty Scholarship of $1,500 was awarded to Chad Lannon, a graduate student at University of Maryland College Park studying Fire Protection Engineering.

2015 Blacks in Safety Engineering (BISE) Scholarship: Ebony Winder, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

The Blacks in Safety Engineering Scholarship of $1,000 was awarded to Ebony Winder, an undergraduate at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University studying Occupational Safety & Health.
The Council on Practices and Standards Branch Significant Contributor Awards

Food and Agribusiness Branch: Tabitha Laser, CSP

The winner of the significant contributor award for the Food and Agribusiness Branch is Tabitha Laser. Having served as the Vice Chairperson and membership chair of the Branch, Tabitha assisted in forming an Agriculture Section of ASSE in Florida, has contributed articles for the Branch publication, and has worked to recruit new members. She was an instrumental part of the Branch in its infancy and her dedication is shown in the work she has done for the Branch.

Health and Wellness Branch: Leigh M. Freeman-Blake, MPH

The winner of the significant contributor award for the Health and Wellness Branch is Leigh Freeman-Blake. Leigh is the Publication Coordinator for the Branch, and has been the editor of the Branch publication for the past three years. Leigh’s contributions have helped make the branch stronger by raising its profile amongst members and the Oregon safety community.

Human Resources Branch: Stan D. Geist

The winner of the significant contributor award for the Human Resources Branch is Stan Geist. Stan has been on the HR Branch Advisory Committee since 2013 and is responsible for the Executive Secretary duties for the Branch. He has provided invaluable input into the Branch’s emerging issues document and publication.

Military Branch: Pamela K. Wilkinson

The winner of the significant contributor award for the Military Branch is Pamela Wilkinson. Pam has served on the Branch leadership team for over four years. She was part of the team that represented ASSE at the Safety Professional Development Conference sponsored by the Naval Safety Center. Pam is a member of the team that is in contact with the OHS staffs at the U.S. Coast Guard headquarters, the National Guard Bureau, and the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters.
# The Council on Practices and Standards

## Practice Specialty and Common Interest Group Achievement Awards

![Gold](image1.png)  ![Silver](image2.png)

### The Consultants Practice Specialty
- Pam Walaski, CSP, CHMM
- Brian Hitt, CSP, CHMM

### The Environmental Practice Specialty
- Mary Prisby, CHMM
- Jay Brakensiek, CSP

### The International Practice Specialty
- Rich Moscato, CSP
- Kyle McKinnis, CSP

### The Construction Practice Specialty:
- Eric Voight, CSP
- Rick Zellen, CSP, ARM

### The Industrial Hygiene Practice Specialty:
- Jeff Nesbitt, CSP, CIH
- Victor D’Amato, CSP, CIH

### The Mining Practice Specialty:
- Robert Blaylock, CSP
- Mick Lewis, CSP

### The Public Sector Practice Specialty:
- Leo DeBobes, CSP, CPEA, CHCM
- Lori Schroth, CSP

### The Blacks in Safety Engineering Common Interest Group:
- Patricia Reed, CSP
The winner of the ASSE Construction Practice Specialty SPY is Jeremy Bethancourt. Jeremy led the efforts against Arizona when they passed legislation to increase residential fall protection height to fifteen feet. As a result of Jeremy's efforts, OSHA intervened and directed Arizona’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health to enforce federal OSHA Safety standards.

Consultants Practice Specialty: Carol Keyes, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Consultants Practice Specialty SPY is Carol Keyes. Carol has been active in the Consultants Practice Specialty since 2006 and has recently been elected Assistant Administrator. She was an integral part in developing and editing Consultant’s Business Development Guide, along with J.A. Rodriguez, Jr. and Pamela Walaski. Published in April of this year, the book provides comprehensive guidance written by and for professional safety consultants.

Engineering Practice Specialty: Don Enslow, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Engineering Practice Specialty SPY is Don Enslow. Don has served as an Engineering Practice Specialty Advisory Board Member and as Publication Chair for its By Design newsletter for the last five years. In the effort to assure that the publication includes material on Inherently Safe Design (ISD), Don has provided a number of his own contributions with articles ranging from good incident investigation practices, management of change, and addressing human behavior within the implementation of ISD.
Environmental Practice Specialty: CH. Rama Krushna Chary

The winner of the ASSE Environmental Practice Specialty SPY is CH. Rama Krushna Chary. As Secretary of the Environmental Practice Specialty, he has prepared and coordinated articles for the *EnviroMentor* newsletter, reached out to ASSE International Chapters for membership enhancement, and developed and proposed a webinar on Guidelines to Prepare Energy Management System (ISO 50001:2011) Implementation Plan.

Ergonomics Practice Specialty: Jessica Ellison, M.S., CPE, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Ergonomics Practice Specialty SPY is Jessica Ellison. Jessica has worked as one of the founding committee members to build the core of the Ergonomics Practice Specialty and establish its website and social media presence. Jessica continues to be a strong advocate for the field of ergonomics as the President of the San Francisco ASSE Chapter.

Fire Protection Practice Specialty: Edward L. Zimmerman, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Fire Protection Practice Specialty SPY is Edward Zimmerman. Ed continues to support the practice specialty as an active membership chair who tracks membership changes, posts discussion topics on LinkedIn for members, and has led joint roundtable discussions with the Public Sector Practice Specialty since 2012. Ed is also actively planning a white paper on rail car incidents that will build off of the discussion initiated by Safety 2015’s round table session.

Healthcare Practice Specialty: Lori A. Severson, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Healthcare Practice Specialty SPY is Lori Severson. Lori has been a dedicated, reliable member of the Healthcare Practice Specialty Advisory Board for the past four years. She has served as Awards and Honors chair and has authored six articles for the practice specialty technical publication, *HealthBeat*. 
**Industrial Hygiene Practice Specialty: Brian K. Anderson, ARM**

The winner of the ASSE Industrial Hygiene Practice Specialty SPY is Brian Anderson. Brian has been an advisory committee member for the Industrial Hygiene Practice Specialty acting as Executive Secretary for the last five years. Since becoming a member of the team in 2009, Brian has contributed to the practice specialty in many ways, supporting monthly and annual meeting logistics. Brian always volunteers for special projects and makes himself available to support the practice specialty needs.

**International Practice Specialty: Ashok Garlapati, CSP, QEP, CMIOSH**

The winner of the ASSE International Practice Specialty SPY is Ashok Garlapati. Ashok is a past Administrator of the International Practice Specialty and Chair of the Diversity Committee, and has served the ASSE Practice Specialty in a variety of roles since 2008. He participated in ASSE Global Taskforce and his efforts in globalization of ASSE are commendable. In 2013, Ashok was been appointed by ASSE as Ambassador for Middle East, India and SE Asia for his voluntary efforts with ASSE and to further promote Society objectives in these countries.

**Manufacturing Practice Specialty: Melanie Sanders, ASP**

The winner of the ASSE Manufacturing Practice Specialty SPY is Melanie Sanders. Melanie’s contributions as Membership chair of the Manufacturing Practice Specialty have helped reach annual membership recruitment and retention goals. She has effectively represented the Manufacturing Practice Specialty on the Council on Practices and Standards Common Interest Group/Practice Specialty Membership Chair quarterly conference calls. Melanie is always willing to offer new ideas and readily accepts tasks requested of her.
Mining Practice Specialty: Frederick G. “Mick” Lewis, CSP, CMSP

The winner of the ASSE Mining Practice Specialty SPY is Frederick “Mick” Lewis. Mick has been a member of ASSE since 1989 and a member of the Mining Practice Specialty for over ten years. He is currently the Assistant Administrator for the Mining Practice Specialty, and is past President of the Colorado Chapter. He hosted at the Denver PDC and assisted in ASSE’s booth at the Society of Mining Engineers Conference & Expo this past February.

Oil & Gas Practice Specialty: D. Scott Vaughn, CSP, REM, AIC, CIPS, CSEM

The winner of the ASSE Oil & Gas Practice Specialty SPY is Scott Vaughn. An active ASSE Mentor, Scott is a dedicated Oil and Gas executive who has spearheaded Health, Safety, Security and Environmental global operations efforts in the oil and gas exploration industry. Scott has proven success in leading diverse projects and operations to achieve incident-free work environments.

Public Sector Practice Specialty: Joann Robertson, CSP, CPCU, ARM, CPSI

The winner of the ASSE Public Sector Practice Specialty SPY is Joann Robertson serves as Membership Chair and as a regular writer for the Perspectives newsletter. For 25 years, Joann has provided health and safety services to schools and municipalities. Joann is also an active member of Women in Safety Engineering (WISE) and a regular volunteer on the ASSE PDC welcoming/information team.
Risk Management/Insurance Practice Specialty: Thomas F. Pegg, CIC

The winner of the ASSE Risk Management/Insurance Practice Specialty SPY is Thomas Pegg. Tom has been a member of the Practice Specialty for over 10 years. He has stepped up to join the Advisory Board of RM/I and agreed to serve as the Nominations and Elections Chair. He has supported the practice specialty administrator in his current role and previous ASSE responsibilities. Tom is currently an active participant on the US ISO PC 283 committee developing the ISO 45001 standard. He has dedicated his long safety career to educating associates, clients and the public about minimizing injuries and death both within and outside the workplace.

Transportation Practice Specialty: Charles N. Halfen

The winner of the ASSE Transportation Practice Specialty SPY is Charles Halfen. A contributor to the practice specialty for several years, Charlie is active on the Distracted Driving Committee, a participant with advisory council, and presented at ASSE’s PDC in 2012-2015. Charlie is retired from UPS as Corporate Fleet Manager and was involved in the Transportation Practice Specialty PDC held at UPS in 2007. He has been the Body of Knowledge representative for the practice specialty for several years. In his retirement, he has been active in promoting teen driving safety and working with commercial fleets to understand CSA process.

Utilities Practice Specialty: Michael Carter, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Utilities Practice Specialty SPY is Michael Carter. Mike became a member of the Utilities Branch a month after the inception of the Branch’s Voluntary Advisory Committee. He immediately took the role as the Branch’s Award and Honors Chair in July 2010 and held the position until October 2011. During his tenure, he also took on the role of Newsletter Editor in January 2011 to fill a void in the Committee. Mike continues as the Utilities Practice’s Publication Coordinator bringing consistency and longevity to the position. In addition, he is always willing to assist with Utilities endeavors by volunteering to assist other Advisory Committee members on their projects.
Blacks in Safety Engineering (BISE) Common Interest Group: Pamela E. Kerr

The winner of the ASSE Blacks in Safety Engineering (BISE) Common Interest Group SPY is Pamela Kerr. Pamela has been instrumental in the growth of BISE through her energy and commitment to the organization and to ASSE as a whole. Her commitment to the profession is immeasurable. She works hard to ensure that new members feel welcome and have good communication so they are aware of the benefits of BISE. Pamela’s friendly demeanor makes her perfect for the Membership Chair and as an active member of BISE.

Women in Safety Engineering (WISE) Common Interest Group: Kelly A. Bernish, CSP

The winner of the ASSE Women in Safety Engineering (WISE) Common Interest Group SPY is Kelly Bernish. Kelly was a founding member of WISE and it was her energy and dedication that really lifted WISE and got it off the ground. Kelly was the original newsletter editor for WISE. She wrote for, edited, formatted and submitted the WISE newsletter, *A Word to the WISE*, each quarter. Kelly also spearheaded the WISE 100 Women project to celebrate ASSE’s 100th anniversary. She was a one-woman force to be reckoned with to provide recognition for women in the safety, health, and environmental professions and celebrate ASSE.

The Thomas F. Bresnahan Standards Medal: Bruce W. Main, P.E., CSP

The winner of this year’s Thomas F. Bresnahan Standards Medal is Bruce Main. A core principle for every ASSE member is keeping people from harm. Industry safety standards are a key method of sharing knowledge and best practices to achieve that core principle. Safety standards also impact trade and commerce and writing fair standards is important for a level playing field in the global marketplace.

Industry safety standards impact a wide array of ASSE members because ASSE members work in a wide variety of industries and at companies large and small. Most industrial and commercial companies use or supply machinery of some kind(s). Too
often safety standards are written with the best of intentions but with limited practical experiences in the real and messy industrial and commercial worlds. The result can be theoretical requirements with good intent but little practical application – which often results in the standards being ignored.

Mr. Main brings his experiences from applying the risk assessment process with clients in many different industries and organizations to standards development. These experiences have given rise to real world expertise that he brings to the safety standards discussions. Through his participation, Mr. Main has been influential in developing standards that improve safety yet accommodate real world constraints. Mr. Main has attained leadership positions in both national and international standards activities in recognition of his abilities and contributions.

As the primary delegate for ASSE to the ANSI B11 standards series, Mr. Main brings ASSE concerns and perspectives to the standards discussions.

The Council on Practices and Standards Safety Professional of the Year Award: Thomas E. Kramer, P.E., CSP

The winner of this year’s Council on Practices and Standards Safety Professional of the Year award is Thomas (Thom) Kramer. Mr. Kramer is a safety consultant and structural engineer with more than 15 years of expertise. As a dually registered professional engineer and certified safety profession, he has spent much of his career consulting with clients on the investigation and renovation of facilities, which often required extensive and creative structural and safety modification. He specializes in the assessment and design of fall protection systems. He is widely considered as a thought leader in the fall protection industry.

Mr. Kramer has actively worked with ASSE on a national level since 2007. He has served as an active member of the Engineering Practice Specialty aiding in newsletter article development and the creation of a Fall Protection Subcommittee within the group.

He is a member of the ANSI Z359 Committee of Fall Protection and serves as subcommittee chair for the ANSI Z359.6 “Specifications and design requirements for active fall-protection systems” and for ANSI Z359.15 “Specifications and design requirement for horizontal lifeline systems.”

Mr. Kramer has also served not only as PDC Committee member but also as its Chair for 3 years and its Program Subcommittee Chair for 3 years. He has spoken on fall protection numerous times at ASSE PDC and has served as a greeter several times at the PDC. He works consistently and diligently to advance not only ASSE but also the Safety Profession.