



**National Academy of Construction (NAC) 2025 Safety Symposia Series**  
***Creating a Safety Culture in Undergraduate Education***

**HOST:** National Academy of Engineering, Federal Facilities Council

**DATE:** February 27, 2025

**VENUE:** Lecture Room, National Academy of Science Building  
2101 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20418  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/about/visiting-us>

**AGENDA:**

8:00 am Light breakfast and networking

9:00 am Welcome / Introduction to the Symposium

Moderator: Tony Leketa, NAC

Welcome to NAE/BICE/FFC: Cameron Oskvig / Head, Board on Infrastructure and the Constructed Environment (BICE), NAE

Speaker: Dr. Edd Gibson / NAC President/CEO

1. Welcome and safety moment
2. Symposium's purpose and structure
3. Findings from our first round of safety culture symposia focused on undergraduate education.
4. Critical need to implement safety culture throughout the construction industry.

Speaker: Pete Lynch / Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment

Owners perspective on Safety

9:40 am Keynote #1: Safety in Industry – A Construction Company Perspective  
Speaker: Will Lichtig, Chief Innovation Officer, Executive Vice President, Boldt

1. Benefits and implications of safety culture
2. Industry's expectations of recent graduates



- 10:10 am Panel #1: Safety Culture and the New Graduate  
Panel Moderator: Ken Arnold  
Panelists: Keith Wilson, Director, Safety and Occupational Health, NAVFAC HQ; Ian Small, Senior Safety Director, Mortenson; plus two or three additional industry representatives, including a representative Clark Construction; representatives from industry describe their culture of safety and what they need in hiring new graduates
- 10:55 am Break
- 11:10 am Keynote #2: Safety in Academia – A Director’s Perspective  
Speaker: Dr. Brian Kleiner / Director, Myers-Lawson School of Construction, Virginia Tech University
1. Understanding of industry needs
  2. Curriculum and staff constraints
  3. Ability to meet industry needs and desires
- 11:40 am Panel #2: Including Safety Culture Concepts in Academic Programs  
Panel Moderator: Nazila Roofigari  
Panelists: John Gambatase, Oregon State University, Sam Leiber, New Jersey Institute of Technology, plus two or three others, TBD
- Academic representatives describe how they have incorporated and integrated safety concepts into their course materials and programs, or how they might do so.
- 12:25 pm Lunch  
Networking, and luncheon speaker (Ross Myers / CEO Allan Myers)
- 1:25 pm Breakout Group Discussions
1. Creating culture vs. teaching procedure
  2. Providing help to educators
  3. Leveraging the results of this symposium
- 3:10 pm Break
- 3:25 pm Breakout Groups Report Out – Open Discussion
- 4:10 pm Next Steps  
Speaker: Edd Gibson, President/CEO, NAC
- 4:30 pm Social Hour / Networking