

HEADLINES

Mark The Date - Gulf States Region Leadership Conference is June 7 - 8, 2019. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Mark the Date - Little Rock Chapter Annual Golf Tournament set for April 26, 2019



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Why I Joined CSI and am Still Active 29 Years

Randall Lewis, CSI, AIA

This weekend we held our annual Transfer of Power Meeting where we help new leaders learn the ropes and brainstorm CSI. During the meeting we went around the room introducing ourselves and several discussed why we joined CSI. It was very interesting to hear these stories even though I have known many of these folks several years. As I heard the stories I thought that this is well and fine but everyone in this room is already committed to CSI and making it better. That is why we were there. However, if the same folks do the same things we will get the same results. We need to grow and develop as a chapter and organization. It would be great for others to hear these stories and get more involved in our chapter. I am going to tell you my CSI story and challenge others to do the same in the coming months.

My first experience with CSI was as a student in Architecture school. One of my professors, Robert VM Harrison, required us to belong to this CSI Student Affiliate as part of his class. As usual when a professor requires something, you do it but usually roll your eyes and figure it won't amount to much. Well I was wrong about this one. When we met it was usually to tour local construction related businesses. I don't remember them all but I do remember that I quickly realized that I was getting something through CSI that I could not get anywhere else. Since we were all equal partners of the team, all our ideas and duties had value. (Lesson One – We are all equal members of the same team.)

After graduation I was broke as most folks and just happy to be out of school and making my own way, mostly. CSI sort of went down as a priority. Then stepped in my uncle, Glen Lewis, with a personal invitation to attend the regular chapter meetings. (Lesson Two – A personal invitation gets people in the door.) Most of those who know me know that I don't mix well with a room full of strangers. I love my uncle and enjoyed being around him and Glen took me under his wing and introduced me to folks in a not so obvious way that eased me into the group. After attending meetings and seeing what all is being done Glen encouraged me to serve on the board as a Director to see what goes on behind the scenes. As a Director I was able to participate in a lot of activities but not be overwhelmed. Our team functioned well and there was always someone nearby that would lend a helping hand or piece of advice. As I got more involved, I took on more responsibility and learned a lot about how to get things done. Not just CSI things, Life things. One day I realized that here

I was, an intern architect, green as a gourd, but I was doing stuff, Important Stuff. I was getting leadership opportunities in CSI that I would not have gotten otherwise. I developed leadership skills that have served me well in my personal and professional life. (Lesson Three – Involvement in CSI will develop your leadership skills.)

As I continued with my CSI involvement I was getting to know a lot of folks from different areas of the industry. It wasn't an Architect's club or a Contractor's club or a Supplier's club. We were all equal partners working for a common goal. (See Lesson One above.) As I have heard it described, we were all learning to work smarter. We created guides, helped develop procedures and many other projects that made our entire industry better and run smoother. Through these folks I was working with, I learned that the relationships were as important, if not more, than the things we were doing. (Lesson Four – CSI does a lot of good things but the relationships you develop are what keeps you coming back.)

This has been long and wordy and I thank you for sticking with it. I wanted to tell my CSI story so that others can reach Lesson Four. Join our team, help us do important stuff, learn how to do your stuff better and get to know folks who will make you better. If the same folks do the same stuff we will get the same results. We need to innovate and grow and the only way to do that for new folks with new ideas is to get involved and move us forward.

Customize Your Volunteer Experience with CSI's Volunteer Portal



Are you interested in...

[Reaching out to educators](#) to bring CSI principles into the classroom?

[Meeting and greeting](#) with fellow members at Construct 2018?

Guiding others studying for the CSI certification exams – lead an [online study group](#)?

Sign up for these opportunities and more at CSI's NEW Volunteer Portal:

See all volunteer opportunities in one location

Easily apply for options that interest you and work with your schedule

Opt into the volunteering pool, sit back and have volunteering invitations come directly to you

Join your fellow members... Jump into the [volunteer pool](#) and make a difference!

See how you can volunteer today on the [Volunteer Portal](#).

If you have any questions about volunteering, please email volunteer@csinet.org.

PREDICTED: RESPECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES



Contributed by [Liz O'Sullivan](#)

(Editor's Note: It should be noted that the skilled trades gap has been a long time coming, and this post was originally written by Liz over seven years ago on her blog that you can find here)

I have great respect for people who work hard and are good at their work.

Many people consider hard work and skill to be respect-worthy. However, the same people who respect hard-working and successful doctors, actors, and software engineers, often have little or no respect for hard-working, successful construction tradespeople.

This lack of respect may partially stem from a lack of understanding of what is involved in the work of tradespeople. Sometimes we do a little fix-it work around our own homes and figure that it's not that hard. We watch tradespeople on TV who make their work look easy, and think, "Oh, well I could do that." But it actually only looks easy, and that's because they know what they're doing!

I suspect that there's actually a deeper and broader pattern of thinking that's at work here, and it needs to change, soon.

There is a lack of respect for the construction trades because of the push by schools to get kids to college. Somehow, attaining a 4-year college degree has become the only respected post-high-school option for many kids. It may be the only avenue they hear about from their guidance counselors and parents.

In the Denver Post on February 20, 2011, a guest writer, high school teacher Michael Mazenko wrote:

“...schools keep pushing the college-for-all mentality. The education system should promote the trades and skilled labor as much as it does academics and bachelor’s degrees, and education at all levels should become more experiential and skill-based.”

“This conclusion is supported by the recently released Harvard study that concluded not all kids should go to college – or at least not a four-year university in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree. The aptly titled report ‘Pathways to Prosperity’ recommends a new direction for education reform, based on the practical needs of students and the economy.”

Not every teenager really wants to have a career that requires a 4-year-college diploma. But there is pressure from society to go get that college diploma, or else he may be considered to be not smart, or to be an underachiever. Sometimes it works out, and the college student thrives, and ends up taking a career path that did require that college degree. Sometimes it doesn’t work out, the student struggles or hates college, or just wonders why he’s there, AND has student loan debt to deal with after the inevitable drop out of college.

Maybe it made sense to keep pushing oneself through college in the days when a 4-year-college degree guaranteed a job. But today, when a college degree guarantees little more than loads of student loan debt for many, if someone’s not cut out for college, it doesn’t make sense to go.

If alternative education paths, and alternative career paths, were considered to be acceptable, and respectable, by a greater percentage of people in the U.S., we’d have fewer kids dropping out of college, and maybe we’d even have fewer kids dropping out of high school. We’d surely have more, and better-trained, construction tradespeople. They’d get their educations in trade schools or two-year technical college programs, and on the job. While in high school, they’d have a better understanding of how their class subject matter will be used in their careers.

I’m lucky to have known since I was 12 years old what I wanted to do for a living. Some people my age still aren’t sure... If young people are exposed to more options at a young age, options for careers, not just options for more education, they may be as lucky as I was, and be able to live through the rest of their formal educational lives with clear goals in sight.

Another surprising and great piece of information from Michael Mazenko’s piece addresses wages:

“In a study of Florida college graduates, the earnings discrepancy between two-year programs and bachelor degrees is a revelation. Five years out of school, the average trade school or community college graduate makes \$47,000 per year compared to bachelor degree holders who average \$36,000. School administrators, counselors, and education reformers are being disingenuous if they fail to promote this information to students and parents. By not offering advice on students’ realistic prospects for college degrees and marketable skills, schools are setting up too many kids for failure.”

And, from the Harvard “Pathways to Prosperity” study:

There will ...be a huge number of job openings in so-called blue-collar fields like construction, manufacturing, and natural resources, though many will simply replace retiring baby boomers. These fields will provide nearly 8 million job openings, 2.7 million of which will require a post-secondary credential. In commercial construction, manufacturing, mining and installation, and repair, this kind of post-secondary education—as opposed to a B.A.—is often the ticket to a well-paying and rewarding career.”

These post-secondary credentials mentioned above include 2-year associate's degrees and occupational certificates. A four-year-college degree is not required for any of these 8 million job openings, and only a high school degree is required for over 5 million of these jobs.

If this pattern of “college-for-all thinking” doesn't change, these jobs will be tough to fill with qualified, properly trained, people. I see a future with a large percentage of new construction being pretty bad, and a very small percentage of new construction being good, but very expensive. There just won't be enough skilled tradespeople to go around, so those with the skills will become very expensive and very much in demand. (And how will they have the time to train the skilled tradespeople of the future?)

Well, maybe that'll be the way to engender the respect that is due... If the U.S. won't learn the easy way, by reading studies and making some changes in our patterns of thinking, maybe we'll learn the hard way – by experiencing even higher financial costs of good quality construction, and the less-measurable costs of living with poor quality construction. I've seen and lived with both. I've seen good work in action, and I've seen bad work in action. I highly respect the good work of good tradespeople! Now if we can just get the rest of the U.S. to think this way, we can have a brighter economic future, and a better built environment.

MOCKUPS: CONSTRUCTION'S CRASH TEST DUMMY

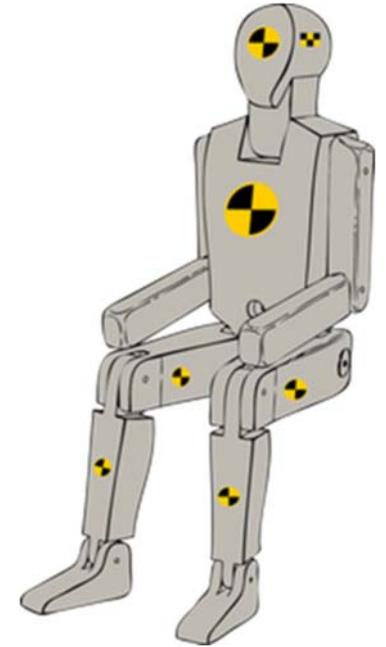
Contributed by Brian Stroik

CRASH!

BANG!

WOW!

That was cool - the Crash Test Dummies have done their job again! The automotive industry found a way to ensure the safety performance for their deliverable for all manufacturers to owners (us), through testing and validation. Yet when we approach the subject of performance mockups within the building community, people seemed shocked at the suggestion. After all, it might cost something to make sure it gets done right the first time – heaven forbid!



Now, consider this: buildings today utilize thousands of products, from hundreds of manufacturers, with thousands of different chemical compositions, being installed by a group with a known labor shortage, managed by groups with all different delivery methods. Try and figure out that matrix of possible outcomes. Add in the fact that very few architectural schools teach building physics to students for the understanding of heat, air, and moisture transfer, and it is no wonder insurance claims and litigation from moisture and water issues in construction is a billion-dollar industry annually.

Let's also ask the question: how many architectural firms have chemists or research and development labs or full-scale testing facilities? Very few. But as an industry, we are asking the architect to provide product choices in specifications and properly designed and detailed projects, with the full knowledge that no single person or firm could possibly know or understand all the technologies available for all six sides of the enclosure. So...how can the Owner be assured his building is being properly built? Use the building industry's "Crash Test Dummy" – the performance mockup.

The performance mockup is used to validate the design, product selection, and proper installation of materials, prior to the final installation on the building. Would you build a car in your backyard for your 16-year-old to drive on the expressway at 70 MPH? If you answered no, then why would you expect a unique combination of design, materials, and installers to be able to successfully provide an Owner with a leak-free building on their first try? Remember.... every building is UNIQUE. Even if you use the exact same design from project to project, you must add in the experience, or lack thereof, of the installers for each building. So, consider even if you design and select the exact same materials for two identical buildings, there is no feasible way they could be built in the exact same weather conditions, with the exact same labor force. It is impossible!

The performance mockup can be built and tested in a myriad of configurations and at all levels of cost. The most important part is that they are tested - for water leakage, air leakage, thermal concerns and durability. Make sure people installing the mockup are also going to be working on the project. What good does it do the project if the knowledge gained by the mockup is not available for the actual construction of the project? Let's do it right on the building the first time and aim to get the lawyers and litigation out of construction.

This is the first in a four-part series on performance mockups. Stay tuned for more information.

- Types of Mockups
- Testing of Performance Mockups
- Transferring knowledge from the Performance Mockup

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) has partnered with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Avitru (Silver Level CSI Corporate Sponsor) to offer free student access to MasterSpec. For those involved with students or who are teaching spec-writing or CDT courses, please help us spread the word. Students with valid .edu email accounts may find a link to register on the AIAS website:

<http://www.aias.org/avitru-gives-student-access-to-masterspec/>

The American Institute of Architects [released 13 new and updated contract documents earlier this week](#) that the organization says will help architects and contractors with protecting their projects and businesses.

One of the most notable changes includes the new Contractor-Subcontractor Master Agreement and its accompanying work order, which allow a contractor and subcontractor to agree to a predefined set of terms that apply to multiple scopes of the work, the AIA said. Other notable changes include:

- Master Agreements, which now align with the 2017 core AIA document updates;
- Instructions to Bidders, which now includes designation of bidding documents in electronic form or paper copy; and
- Architect-Consultant Agreement for Special Services now includes the copyrights, licenses and payment provisions of the prime agreement. Mediation was added as a condition precedent to binding dispute resolution.

“The AIA Documents Committee routinely reviews its legal agreements to ensure they reflect the latest trends and nuances we’re seeing in the industry,” said AIA Contract Documents and Risk Management Managing Director Kenneth Cobleigh, Esq.

“By doing so, we ensure the design and construction industries are working under the best agreements possible for their businesses.” The complete list of updates is as follows:

- A121TM–2018, Standard Form of Master Agreement Between Owner and Contractor where Work is Provided Under Multiple Work Orders;
- A221TM–2018, Work Order for Use with Master Agreement Between Owner and Contractor;
- A421TM–2018, Standard Form of Master Agreement Between Contractor and Subcontractor Where Work is Provided Under Multiple Work Orders;
- A422TM–2018, Work Order for Use with Master Agreement Between Contractor and Subcontractor;
- A701TM–2018, Instructions to Bidders;
- B121TM–2018, Standard Form of Master Agreement Between Owner and Architect for Services Provided Under Multiple Service Orders;
- B221TM–2018, Service Order for Use with Master Agreement Between Owner and Architect;
- C101TM–2018, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services;
- C402TM–2018, Standard Form of Agreement Between Architect and Consultant for Special Services;
- C421TM–2018, Standard Form of Master Agreement Between Architect and Consultant for Services Provided Under Multiple Service Orders;
- C422TM–2018, Service Order for Use with Master Agreement Between Architect and Consultant;
- G709TM–2018, Proposal Request; and
- G711TM–2018, Architect’s Field Report

If you are interested in following the Little Rock Chapter, our links are as follows (*for Facebook and LinkedIn look for the CSI Little Rock Chapter*):

Website: <https://csilittlerock.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

If you are interested in Joining CSI or if you are just interested in keeping up with the information provided by CSI, follow this link to the Institute Website Membership Pages:

For Membership Information:

<https://www.csiresources.org/communities/membership/individual-membership>

To Join CSI:

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/CSIRESOURCES/143a718d-6df6-484a-8a79-76d79635b741/UploadedImages/PDFs/CSI_MembershipFormFY18.pdf

To See what CSI is all about:

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/CSIRESOURCES/143a718d-6df6-484a-8a79-76d79635b741/UploadedImages/CSI_ResourcesCatalogFinalLowRes.pdf

THE MISCONCEPTION SERIES #6: DRAWINGS & SPECS ARE COMPLEMENTARY

Contributed by Liz O'Sullivan - Let's Fix Construction Blog 10/22/18

complementary adjective

com·ple·men·ta·ry | \,käm-plə-'men-t(ə-)rē

Definition of *complementary*

- 1 : serving to fill out or complete
- 2 : mutually supplying each other's lack

Recently, I was preparing a masonry architectural specification section for a remodel project. The project has an existing CMU wall which is to receive a small area of new CMU infill. It's an exterior structural wall, and the architectural drawings indicate that the infill CMU is to be grouted solid.

I asked the structural engineer if we need reinforcing bars (rebar) in the cores of the CMU. I told him that I would delete rebar from the spec section if we don't need rebar, so that the Contractor knows he doesn't need to provide it.

The engineer said, "You can just leave it in the specs. If the rebar isn't on the Drawings, they'll know they don't need it."

NNNOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.....!!!!!!

Drawings and Specifications are complementary and what is called for by one shall be as binding as if called for by both." This is according to the General Conditions of the Contract for this project. This is a typical provision in construction contracts. (1)

So, if rebar isn't required for that wall, there should be no rebar in the spec or on the drawings. If rebar is in the specs, even if it's not on the drawings, rebar is required by the contract. If rebar is on the drawings, even if it's not in the specs, rebar is required by the contract.

Design professionals need to completely comprehend this concept, and for some unknown reason, many don't. Contractors need to completely comprehend this requirement, and for an understandable reason (it's not in their best interest at times) they don't always seem to grasp this.

The lead design professional on the project, the entity who is performing construction contract administration, is the party who must enforce the contract documents, including the specifications. This party has to understand the relationships among contract documents before he or she can properly enforce them. If the specifications and drawings have been prepared to be complementary, and are clear, concise, correct, and complete, they will be easy to understand (for all parties) and easy to enforce.

Unless the design team intends for something to be included by the contractor in the project, it shouldn't be in the specs (or drawings). There shouldn't be a bunch of things in the specs 'in case we need them' if we don't actually intend for them to be in the project, because by doing that, we've taken the first step to our documents' not being taken seriously by the contractor. If there is extra information in the specifications, the contractor will assume that the specifications are boilerplate specifications that are reused on all projects, and are not specific to the project, and will ignore all the specifications.

Also, the architect should enforce the provisions of the specs and the agreement and the conditions of the contract, or else these documents won't be taken seriously. We have to say what we mean, and prove that we mean what we say.

If the contractor starts ignoring the specifications, the architect or engineer who's doing construction contract administration will have a much harder time trying to enforce the specs. When the specs include a lot of inapplicable things, the contractor will start ignoring the specs, because guessing at the intention of the specs, or constantly asking about the intention of the specs, will be a waste of the contractor's essential time. (Of course, the contractor is usually contractually obligated to ask for clarification in the case of conflicts in the documents, but it's not fair for design professionals to knowingly issue documents with conflicts.)

So, architects and engineers, remember that the drawings and specifications are complementary and what is called for by one is as binding as if called for by both. Enforce this during construction!

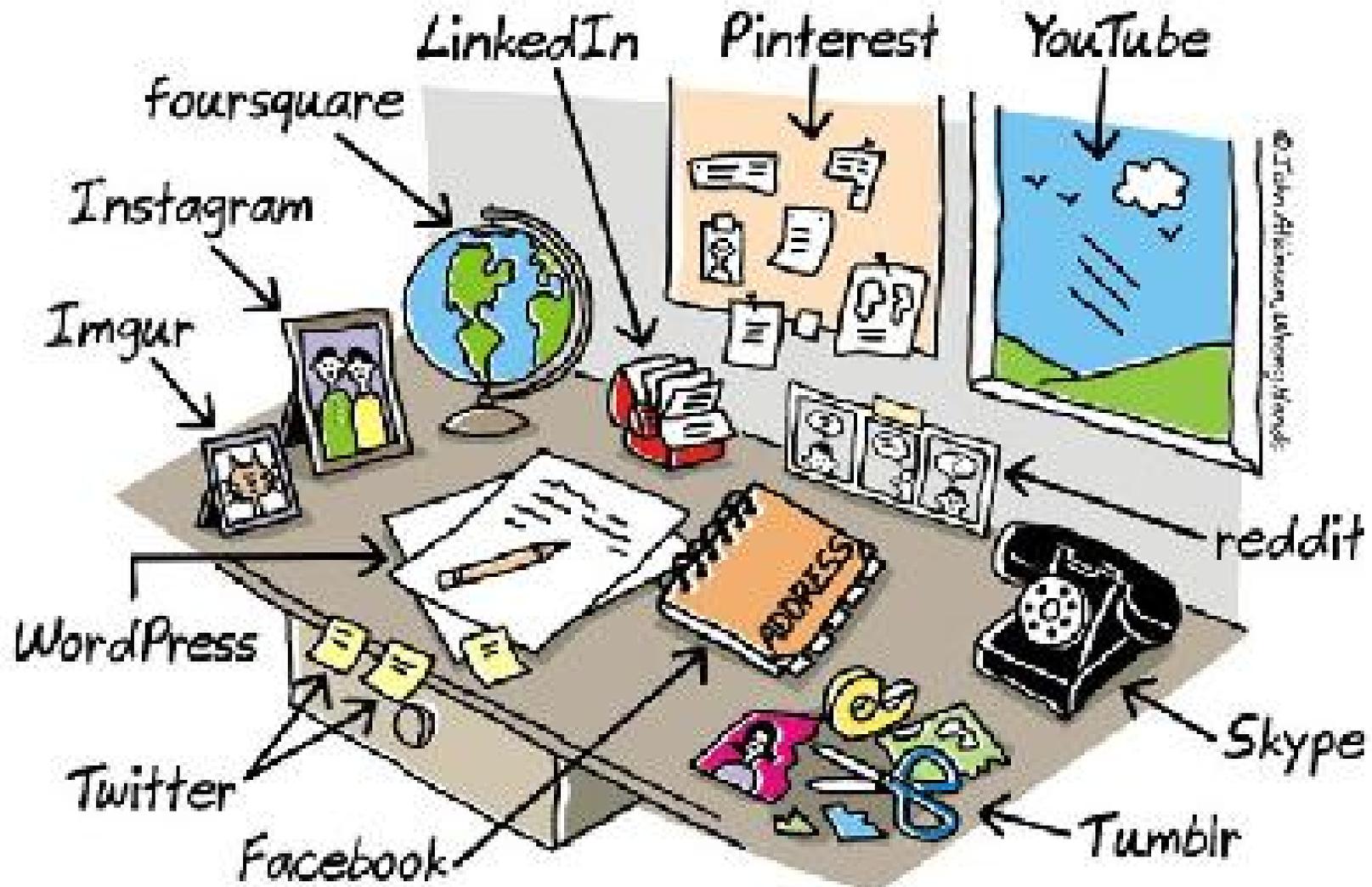
And, architects and engineers, don't put extra stuff in the specs! It wastes your time and the contractor's time during construction, and it may waste the owner's money.

Notes:

(1) AIA A201, The General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, indicates that the Contract Documents consist of "the Agreement, Conditions of the Contract, Drawings, Specifications, Addenda" et cetera. AIA A201 goes on to say "The Contract Documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be as binding as if required by all..."

This post originally appeared on Liz O'Sullivan's website as "Well, If It's Not on the Drawings..."

vintage social networking



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter Officers

President:		Garrett Shaffer, CSI
President-Elect:		Open
Immediate Past President:		Clark Wood, CSI
Secretary:	T	Clark Wood, CSI, CDT
Treasurer:		Billy J. Mathis, FCSI, CDT
Directors		
Operations		Rachal Belanger, CSI
Honors		Melissa Aguiar, CSI, CDT
Membership		Carlie Massery, CSI
Education / Certification		

Chapter Info

Chapter Website:	https://csilittlerock.org
Chapter Newsletter:	SpecWork
Chapter Meeting Day and Time:	2nd Wednesday of Each Month unless otherwise specified by the Chapter President
Chapter Board Meeting Day and Time:	1st Friday of each Month unless otherwise specified by Chapter President

If you are interested in Joining CSI or if you are just interested in keeping up with the information provided by CSI, See the slides shown from the "Why CSI" presentation