

NAEM Nominating Committee
Washington, DC 20006

10 July, 2026

Re: Chet Brandon NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award Nominee

It is an honour to recommend my colleague of twenty-seven years for NAEM's esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award.

For over two decades my career has paralleled Chet's. We were both officers in our respective American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) local Chapters; both rising to President. After leaving my initial home Chapter I moved to the Central Ohio Chapter and ultimately the role of Regional Vice President (RVP Region VII). As the RVP, I worked closely with Chet in developing and implementing the Region's operating strategy across all 24 Chapters. Chet was instrumental in providing that leadership and support to me and fellow Chapter Presidents. That was 2007. Speed ahead to 2018. Chet and I have continued to volunteer across various roles within ASSP. Serving on multiple committees together, including also representing ASSP members in the Center for Safety and Health Sustainability collaboration meetings. We also served on the ASSP Professional Affairs Committee together. Chet's practical approach to challenges and ability to frame the discussion so all could measurably participate was part of why the ASSP continues to invite Chet's insights.

In our professional capacities, we had more opportunities to collaborate. As Global Director of EHS&S for GrafTech International, Chet implemented foundational sustainability and EHS programs. His vision for a comprehensive, integrated program came to life through implementation of a balanced sustainability strategy. He fostered a culture of valuing and seeking both internal and external stakeholder input to the breadth of environmental stewardship and human capital management. While working with Woodard & Curran as their Sustainability Vice-President and Practice Leader, Chet and I collaborated in a vendor relationship to deliver on his vision for GrafTech.

Now at Hexion, Chet has continued his championship of an integrated EHS&S culture with a significant emphasis on foundational product stewardship. Building on his expertise in life cycle analysis from GrafTech, Chet employed a similar approach to Hexion's product portfolio – as evidenced by their CEO's external communications lauding their capabilities and performance. But Chet isn't just a champion for Hexion or the ASSP. He continually strives to be on the cutting edge of EHS&S thought leadership with his blog "LeadingEHS". He is a prolific author on topics across health, safety, sustainability and the environment, including how advances in artificial intelligence can support not only data collection but enable professionals to lead and create safer work environments. From the intrinsic value of the digital

twin to develop forward thought and approach to processes to disruptive innovation and advances in environmental science, Chet has been sharing his experiences with his Leading EHS audience for nearly a decade and a half.

Having known Chet as a friend and colleague since 2001, I can attest he has always moved our profession forward. His public speaking record speaks for itself. This past June, he shared the plenary stage at ASSP's Safety26 with Jennifer McNelly ASSP CEO, Linda Tapp, outgoing ASSP President, and David Neely, incoming OSHA Assistant Secretary of Labor, bringing the hands-on experience across A.I. and serious injury and fatality (SIF) prevention. His real-world manufacturing examples led the way for professionals and companies to follow, breaking down the fear and showcasing how to create a positive culture, safer environment, and ongoing value through implementation. His passion, knowledge, and drive to collaborate across our industry was witnessed by hundreds (if not thousands) of professionals in the room.

Chet has consistently elevated our profession. He has dedicated his own career to advancing the careers of those around him through his selfless volunteerism. He has elevated the performance of the companies he supports through his expertise. He has continued to not only stay abreast of emerging issues, but ahead of new methodologies and technologies – as a champion for the industry does. I look forward to congratulating him on his NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award.

Respectfully submitted,



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