
July 14, 2026

To the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award Selection Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Ronald "Chet" Brandon, CSP, CHMM, Senior Director of Global Sustainability, Product Stewardship & Regulatory Affairs at Hexion Inc., for the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award.

Benchmark Gensuite has had the privilege of collaborating with Chet for many years across numerous initiatives involving environmental, health, safety, sustainability, digital transformation, and emerging technologies. Throughout that partnership, Chet has consistently demonstrated the qualities that define truly exceptional leadership: technical excellence, strategic vision, operational credibility, and an unwavering commitment to advancing both organizations and the EHS profession itself.

Over more than three decades, Chet has built a remarkable career leading EHS&S programs across some of the world's most complex industrial environments. His experience spans chemicals, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, metals, automotive, glass manufacturing, occupational medicine, and global operations, giving him an uncommon breadth of expertise. Yet what has always impressed us most is not simply where he has worked—it is the lasting impact he has made everywhere he has served.

Chet has an extraordinary ability to connect EHS&S with broader business performance. Rather than viewing safety, sustainability, and regulatory compliance as independent functions, he consistently demonstrates how they strengthen operational excellence, business resilience, enterprise risk management, and long-term growth. His leadership has helped organizations reduce injuries, strengthen regulatory performance, improve sustainability reporting, modernize governance, and build cultures where operational discipline and employee well-being reinforce one another.

Our collaboration with Chet has been especially meaningful in the area of digital innovation. As one of the earliest industry leaders to recognize the transformative potential of artificial intelligence within EHS, Chet partnered closely with Benchmark Gensuite to explore how machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and predictive analytics could be applied to identify emerging risks and improve prevention strategies. Importantly, he has always advocated that technology should enhance—not replace—human judgment. His thoughtful approach has helped shape practical AI

solutions that enable organizations to make better decisions while maintaining strong governance, ethics, and accountability.

One of the most compelling examples of Chet's innovative leadership is the development of "Chetwin," his executive digital twin. Rather than creating AI to automate decision-making, Chet designed a digital extension of his own expertise to make more than three decades of EHS knowledge, leadership philosophy, and decision-making experience available across a global organization. Built from his extensive body of published work, professional presentations, operational experience, regulatory knowledge, and communication style, Chetwin enables leaders to access practical guidance, generate executive communications, analyze EHS performance trends, support operational planning, and reinforce consistent safety practices in Chet's trusted voice. Equally important, Chet has championed the responsible use of artificial intelligence by emphasizing that digital twins are intended to augment—not replace—human expertise, professional judgment, or the personal relationships that remain at the heart of effective safety leadership. This pioneering work reflects his commitment not only to embracing innovation, but to shaping how AI can be ethically and responsibly leveraged to strengthen the future of the EHS profession.

Beyond his own organizations, Chet has made significant contributions to the advancement of the profession. Through decades of leadership with the American Society of Safety Professionals, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, academic advisory boards, professional publications, and industry conferences, he has invested countless hours mentoring emerging leaders, supporting professional certification, and sharing knowledge that benefits the entire EHS community. He has consistently demonstrated that leadership is measured not only by personal accomplishments, but by the success of those you help develop.

What distinguishes Chet most is his authenticity. He is equally comfortable discussing enterprise strategy with executive leadership as he is walking a manufacturing floor with frontline employees. He listens carefully, asks thoughtful questions, challenges conventional thinking, and brings a practical perspective that earns trust across every level of an organization. His leadership style reflects integrity, accountability, humility, and a genuine passion for protecting people while helping businesses succeed.

At Benchmark Gensuite, we work alongside many of the world's leading EHS professionals. Chet has consistently distinguished himself as one of the industry's most respected and

forward-thinking leaders. His influence extends far beyond the organizations he has served, helping shape modern thinking around operational excellence, sustainability, risk management, and the future of digital EHS.

For his sustained leadership, measurable business impact, commitment to professional development, and decades of service advancing the EHS profession, I offer my strongest recommendation for Ronald "Chet" Brandon as a recipient of the NAEM Lifetime Achievement Award. Few individuals have contributed as broadly or as meaningfully to the profession over the course of their careers, and he is exceptionally deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,

Natasha Porter

CCO & Co-Founder

Benchmark Gensuite