

**Construction Safety Research Center (CSRC)
Meeting Minutes
Inaugural Meeting: Thursday, September 30th, 2021**

Call to Order

Mark Brucki called to order the inaugural meeting of the CSRC at 3:00 PM EDT on the Lawrence Tech University (LTU) campus, Building 5, M336.

Welcome & Introduction of LTU President Dr. Virinder Moudgil by Mark Brucki

Greetings by Dr. Moudgil

The CSRC will fuel innovation and growth in construction while keeping workers safe and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Greetings by Dr. Tarek Sobh, VP of Academic Affairs, Provost

- Annual research funding at LTU has increased to ~\$4 million during the last fiscal year.
- To date in 2021, LTU has collaborated with industry, state, and federal partners to support ~\$2.9 million in research projects.
- The CSRC will create a model for structuring similar research centers and pave the way to developing innovative, effective safety measures in a rapidly evolving economy.

Member Introduction & Overview of Dr. Al-Bayati's Background by Mark Brucki

Introduction of the Core Members of the LTU Support Body, Led by Dr. Ahmed Al-Bayati

- Dr. Elin Jensen – Department Support
- Dr. Liping Liu – College Support
- Ross Sanders – Business Outreach
- Christian Forrest – Website Management
- Lyubov Kagan – Budget Management
- Matthew Roush – Marketing & PR

Introduction of CSRC Founding Members

- Bouma Corporation
- Carhartt
- DTE Energy
- RBV Contracting
- City of Southfield
- City of Kalamazoo

Dr. Al-Bayati's Background

- Dr. Al-Bayati has made great progress in industry outreach and grant seeking, hosted national and statewide training programs, delivered national and international talks, and secured several grants (including from ELECTRI International, MIOSHA, and OSHA).
- Dr. Al-Bayati is committed to supporting hands-on field research as the cornerstone of CSRC and student occupational engagement at LTU.

Agenda Review & Center Overview by Dr. Al-Bayati

CSRC Mission

Reduce construction workplace fatalities and injuries by translating research into innovative, meticulously validated safety practices and training materials that can be easily adopted by construction firms of all sizes.

Research Timeline & Process

- Step 1: Knowledge and experience-based research recommendations will be provided by center director and firm members. (Submitted via CSRC website link by 10/20/2021.)
- Step 2: Applicable research ideas will be selected by the center director, with a focus on research that can be conducted within one year.
- Step 3: Selected ideas will be voted on by firm members. (Voting link available between 11/01/2021 and 11/12/2021; voting results sent out by 11/19/2021.)
- Step 4: Findings will be used to generate easily adoptable practices to be validated by members. The CSRC center will be unique in consulting industry professionals to validate all recommendations. (Initial findings to be presented at in-person meeting by 05/13/2022, with a return to the field for additional research if needed.)
- Step 5: Recommendations will be converted into a training model to be shared among members, evaluated, and disseminated throughout the US construction industry. (Recommendations will be presented by 08/15/2022.)

Additional Notes on the Research Process

- There are currently no parameters or limitations concerning what types of research ideas may be submitted; these may be developed over time, but currently the only constraints are concerning budget and timeline.
- If a research project slated for one year will take longer, time extensions must be approved by firm members.
- There will be a constant emphasis on open communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement of the research selection process.
- Each project will include monthly updates and open opportunities to provide feedback.
- If budgetary constraints allow, the development of technology innovations will be explored in addition to the development of training models.

General Services

- The CSRC will provide student project support, program reviews, site inspections, and expert talks to members under any limitations or conditions stipulated in the individual contracts signed by member institutions.
- Members are encouraged to provide feedback and ideas concerning general services to be offered in future.
- All advice provided to members under general services is for educational purposes only and does not entail an assumption of liability on the part of the CSRC.
- General services deliverables will be disseminated through the CSRC website, social media, and through partnerships with other organizations and agencies.

Public Relations Campaign, Presented by Director of LTU Media Relations Matt Roush

- The goal of Marketing and Public Affairs is to develop and disseminate CSRC promotional materials across all major platforms (LTU's Alumni Magazine and Innovation, digital/social media, video, photo, print, etc.)
- The department has thus far been successful in getting LTU into the media under positive headlines.
- Media advisories will be issued as CSRC research is completed.

Career Services, Presented by Margaret (Peg) Pierce, LTU Director of Career Services

- Career services provides personalized consultations to students as well as career-oriented academic support and networking opportunities.
- Handshake, an interactive job recruitment database, is the backbone of employer/student support at LTU.
- The Handshake database for LTU currently includes ~70K employers, 467 construction industry job postings, and 750 construction industry employers.
- Handshake allows employers to request affiliations with different universities and provides a unified platform for approaching students across multiple institutions; 75–85% of universities in Michigan use it.

The CSRC Website, Presented by Christian Forrest, LTU Director of Web Services

- The website will go live and officially opened to members and the public when press release is distributed which is currently planned for October 12th.
- Members will be consulted for review and approval of references to their logos and photos prior to publishing the live site.
- **High-Level Site Overview:**
 - Homepage illustrating mission and goals of the CSRC, a downloadable brochure, and a donate button allowing firms, municipalities, and other stakeholders to donate directly to the center
 - Member profile pages
 - Membership page describing nature/benefits of membership in CSRC
 - Resources page with free information accessible to non-members, including Spanish and English versions of many resources
 - In the News page featuring PR (internally and externally generated)
 - Official members portal: All members' login credentials and passwords provided in the welcome packet will be effective when website goes live in order to access publication of research results, training programs, agendas/minutes, and additional administrative documentation and forms, including the form to submit research ideas

Review of Action Items, Presented by Ross Sanders, LTU Director of Industry Partnerships and Entrepreneurship

- All members must approve release and member website references by 10/07/2021.
- Website will go live and press release will be distributed 10/12/2021.
- Firm members must submit research project ideas by 10/20/2021.
- Firm members will receive a link for research project voting 11/01/2021.
- Firm members must complete voting by 11/12/2021.

- Voting results and selected projects will be distributed to all members (firms and municipalities) 11/19/2021.
- Initial research findings will be presented at the in-person all-member meeting by 05/13/2022.
- Research recommendations will be presented at the in-person all-member meeting by 08/15/2022.
- Training materials will be presented and distributed by 09/30/22.
- An email will be sent out 10/01/2021 outlining approvals and other actions required from members in October.

Thanks and Closing Remarks

- In next the 12 months, the foundations of the CSRC center will be laid from scratch with the contributions of each member.
- A small gift was distributed to members (a coat of arms representing the CSRC).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM EDT.

Attendees:

- LTU Representatives:
 - Dr. Moudgil, President
 - Dr. Sobh, Provost
 - Dr. Grace, Dean
 - Dr. Liu, Associate Dean
 - Dr. Jensen, Department Chair
 - Dr. Al-Bayati, CSRC Director
 - Mark Brucki, Executive Director of Industry Research
 - Matt Roush, Director of Media Relations
 - Margaret (Peg) Pierce, Director of Career Services
 - Christian Forrest, Director of Web Services
 - Kim Henderson, Administrative Coordinator
 - Tabitha Middleton, Minutes
 - Ross Sanders, Director of Industry Partnerships
- Member Representatives:
 - Andrew Rener, President, Bouma Corporation
 - Jim Foucher, Vice President, RBV Contracting
 - Mark Johnson, Director, DTE Energy (Alternate Representative)
 - Michael Listello, Safety and Health Supervisor, DTE
 - Jim Geromette, Manager of Gas Operations, DTE
 - Colleen Hau, Director, Carhartt
 - Teresa Johnson, Deputy Director, City of Kalamazoo
 - Fred Zorn, City Administrator, City of Southfield

