



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Long Island Chapter

**Professional Development Conference 2025**

**Theme: Leading Safety with Purpose -  
Building Resilient Safety Cultures for the Future**

**Date: May 7th, 2025**

**Venue: Brookhaven National Laboratory**

**8:00**

**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

**8:25**

**OPENING**

**8:30**

**SPEAKER BIO:**

**Future-Ready with ASSP's  
CLEAR Values**



**Linda Tapp, ALCM, CSP, CPTD  
Keynote Speaker**

Linda Tapp, CSP, ALCM, CPTD, is currently President-Elect for the American Society of Safety Professionals and will ascend to the Presidency on July 1st. She has a 30+ year history of volunteering within ASSP and has held dozens of volunteer roles including Chair of the ASSP Foundation, VP Finance, as well as roles with ASSP's Practice Specialties and more. In addition to her Board experience with ASSP, Linda is a former director and treasurer of the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and served as public director on the Board of Certified Professional Ergonomists. Outside of ASSP, she is President of SafetyFUNDamentals, an occupational safety training consulting firm based in New Jersey.

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

ASSP's CLEAR Values represent the core principles guiding the organization and its members in advancing workplace safety and professional excellence. These values—Community, Leadership, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect—not only shape the present but can also be a guide in preparing for the future. By embracing these principles, individuals can proactively navigate challenges, adapt to industry changes, and build resilient, forward-thinking careers. In this presentation, we'll discuss each value along with specific examples and actionable steps attendees can take to guide their professional development, ensuring they are equipped for success today and in the future.

**9:30**

**BREAK**

**9:45**

**SPEAKER BIO:**

Gina Vanderlin is a highly accomplished Environmental, Health and Safety professional with over a decade of experience in the manufacturing and utility industries. Throughout her career, Ms. Vanderlin has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing safety management systems that prioritize worker well-being and enhance organizational efficiency. She has presented at industry conferences and workshops on topics such as mental health, incident investigation, and inter-generational workforce communication. Ms. Vanderlin received a degree a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Juniata College and maintains several professional designations: Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM), and Certified Instructional Trainer (CIT). She is passionate about building safe and inclusive workplaces and communities.

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Safety professionals face increasing complexity in the modern workplace from evolving regulations to technological advancements. This presentation explores why understanding and applying strategic management principles is crucial for building resilient, high-performing safety programs. Attendees will learn how strategic thinking fosters innovation, strategic planning aligns safety objectives with organizational goals, and strategic management ensures effective execution and continuous improvement. By incorporating these principles, safety professionals can move beyond compliance, to create proactive, results-oriented programs that reduce risk and contribute to overall organizational success.

**The Power of Purpose: Leveraging Strategic Frameworks to Optimize Safety Systems**



**Gina Vanderlin, CSP, CHMM, CIT**

**10:45**

**BREAK**

**11:00**

**SPEAKER BIO:**

Firoze Zaroni, CSP, has an MS in Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety, and over 25 years of experience in the Occupational Health & Safety Field, 22 years at Brookhaven National Laboratory as ESH Representative, Industrial Hygiene and Worker Health & Safety Experience.

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Review of the basics of nanomaterials, types of nanomaterials used at Brookhaven National Laboratory, guidelines and practices for nano-safety, safety controls for researchers, and safety controls for support staff (e.g., those who change fume hood filters).

**Nano Safety for Researchers and Support Staff in a Laboratory Setting**



**Firoza Zaroni, CSP**

**11:50**

**Gold Sponsor Presentation by Voxel**

**Presenter: Kevin Croce**

**12:05**

**LUNCH**

1:00

## Artificial Intelligence & Safety



John Duffy, CHST

### Speaker Bio:

John Duffy is the Industrial and Logistics PJM HSE Manager incorporating HSE by Design, a Health, Safety and Environmental risk management program, into projects from their initial inception through out the planning, construction, and handover phases. He supports the CBRE/Turner & Townsend Project Management teams throughout North America.

John has over 20 years of safety experience in the construction industry. Prior to joining CBRE his extensive experience included his tenure as an Executive EHS Consultant, Safety Manager for one of the largest mechanical contractors in New Jersey and as a Site Safety Manager on a several high-rise projects. John is an OSHA Authorized Instructor, Certified MEWP/Forklift/Telehandler instructor and teaches numerous safety awareness topics for other clients.

After raising a family with his wife, John return to school and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature from Thomas Edison State University, graduating in 2018. He currently serves as the chairman of the Zoning Board in his town and is the current President-Elect of the New Jersey chapter of ASSP.

### Presentation Summary:

The presentation will discuss an introduction to AI. The various tools that can benefit the safety professional, and dangers of the reliance on AI. What happens when we produce safety plans, JHA and other hazard recognition tools based on the output of Chatgpt.

How do we address the lack of interactive experience on jobsites when we rely on a system that doesn't require our own experiences?  
How do we utilize AI/Chatgpt to our advantage?  
How will this impact the future of safety?

2:00

Break

2:15

## Mental Health and Self-Care for the Construction Industry



Sean Gerow

### Speaker Bio:

Sean Gerow has 30 years in the non-profit, mental health sector and is currently the Associate Executive Director for the Mental Health Association of Orange County NY. Sean is also the Board President of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Hudson Valley/Westchester Chapter and a National trainer in suicide prevention for Living Works, The QPR Institute, providing life saving training in the area of suicide prevention.

### Presentation Summary:

Raise awareness of recognizing those struggling with mental health or suicide and how we can provide assistance. The Construction Industry is approximately 5x more likely than the general population to lose a life by suicide. This presentation will focus on warning signs and protective factors to support members of the construction industry and identify community based resources.

3:15

BREAK

3:30

**PREVENTION THROUGH DESIGN:  
ELIMINATE THE RISK**



**Vanessa Brady, MS, CIH, CSP**

**SPEAKER BIO:**

Vanessa Brady is an accomplished Environment, Health, Safety, and Sustainability professional with over twenty years of experience in the EHS+S field and industrial hygiene. Vanessa has experience working in manufacturing operations and distribution centers for thermal spray coatings, foundry, aerospace, cosmetics, biotechnology, oil & gas, and pharmaceutical industries. She was nominated by the National American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) peers to serve on their Board of Directors to empower those who apply scientific knowledge to protect all workers from occupational hazards.

Vanessa has extensive experience speaking and training on OEHS subjects in private industries, including with Stony Brook University Health Sciences as a guest speaker on ISO 14001 Environmental Auditing (Spring 2020 & 2021). She is an AIHA Board of Director - Board liaison for over 10 committees, was an Authorized OSHA Trainer, and received the 2024 Presidential Award (ASSP National) for leadership and contributions to a record-breaking Safety 2023 conference and expo in San Antonio, TX.

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

(PtD) : Prevention or reduction of workplace and environmental hazards through designs.  
Real life examples of ways to reduce or eliminate workplace hazards.

4:30

**RAFFLE & CLOSING**

4:45

**END OF CONFERENCE**

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