INCOMING iccifp chairman’s corner
the institute of certified construction industry financial professionals

Back to the Future: Cultivating Growth & Progress

BY HERBERT W. BROWNNETT, CCIFP, INCOMING CHAIRMAN

When the ICCIFP Officers and Board decided this role would best be filled by a prior Chairman, I was deeply honored to be asked to step in and serve. As many of you know, I was closely involved in the founding of the Institute and the CCIFP certification and have a strong passion for promoting the value of the designation to professionals in our industry.

As I prepare to assume the role of ICCIFP Chairman, I am eager to begin working on exciting, new initiatives to put in place for the benefit of our members. One such opportunity that I believe will greatly benefit CFMA and ICCIFP members alike is to increase the coordination between the two organizations.

When the CCIFP certification program was launched in 2003-04, a major goal was for the certification to become ANSI-accredited. At that time, certification consultants advised that a separate, CCIFP-focused organization would need to be established as a separate entity for the CCIFP certification to achieve ANSI accreditation.

Later, we learned that while it was possible to achieve ANSI accreditation without establishing the ICCIFP as a separate entity, there would be many strict requirements. It was thus simpler to establish a separate CCIFP-focused organization – the ICCIFP – at the time.

Another reason that called for the distinct separation of CFMA and ICCIFP was the possibility of liability risks. Because the CCIFP attests to the knowledge of financial professionals, there is potential exposure from a third party, such as a bank or surety, who sustains a financial loss with a construction company to allege they relied on the CCIFP certification as part of their decision to extend credit.

It was decided then that CFMA and ICCIFP would remain separate entities.

In terms of the relationship between the two organizations, it was originally envisioned that the ICCIFP would be independent enough to support ANSI accreditation, but remain closely aligned with CFMA on matters such as strategic planning, marketing, and leadership development. After all, in our industry, it is common to have multiple companies exist for various business reasons – such as unions or asset protection – with close alignment holding them together. This idea helped form the original intent for the basis of the ICCIFP and CFMA relationship.

I strongly believe that the original goals of having the ICCIFP remain a separate organization, with close alignment and coordination with CFMA, can be widely beneficial. A major focus of my tenure as Chairman will be to restore this dynamic.

The ICCIFP has come a long way since I was Chairman in 2006-07. We now have a full-time Director, automated testing, and ANSI accreditation to add further value to the already distinguished CCIFP certification.

Since 2004, the Institute has encouraged construction financial management professionals to earn their CCIFP designation and is on track to become even more widely recognized in the industry. I believe the ICCIFP is helping the CCIFP designation to fast become the standard for construction controllers and CFOs, and this will result in significant growth for our peers and the industry.

I look forward to helping to leverage the tremendous resources of CFMA to grow the ICCIFP for our members’ benefit. After all, a rising tide floats all boats!