Industrial Assessment Centers
Alumni Case Study

Judy Dorsey and Julie Sieving, Colorado State University

Colorado State University (CSU) graduates Judy Dorsey and Julie Sieving have built their careers and a business by applying lessons learned as students participating in the Department of Energy's Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC) program. Both work for the Brendle Group, Inc., a woman-owned engineering consulting firm specializing in energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and sustainable design located in Fort Collins, Colorado. In fact, Judy is the principal engineer and founding owner.

IAC alumni Julie Sieving collects data during an energy assessment performed by the Brendle Group

IAC Roots

As an undergraduate, Judy worked with CSU IAC Director Dr. Harry Edwards under the Waste Minimization Assessment Centers (WMAC) program, funded by EPA and focused on pollution prevention. In 1992, the WMAC and Energy Diagnostic Assessment Center (EADC) merged to form what is now the IAC program. Judy has parlayed her IAC training into 12 years of experience in pollution prevention and sustainable design, as well as 7 years of project management expertise. She holds a B.S. and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. She is also a Licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and a Certified Energy Manager (CEM).

Julie Sieving graduated from CSU in 1998 with a mechanical engineering degree. As a student, the IAC program provided her an opportunity to gain experience in industrial energy efficiency, waste minimization, and productivity improvement. She estimates that during her time with the Colorado State IAC she participated in 30 assessments allowing her invaluable hands-on experience (compared to classroom-only experience). When asked how the IAC program had affected her career choice and her job skills, Julie responded, "The IAC program is the basis for my career and most of my technical projects. It made me more employable than I would have been without the experience."

Julie and Judy's connection to the IAC program is ongoing. Not only have they partnered with the IAC on efforts such as the Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance project, but they also have invited current IAC students to intern with their firm.

Career Highlights

- *Energy Assessments of Municipal Buildings*—Judy and Julie are conducting energy-efficiency assessments of municipal buildings for the Colorado cities of Longmont and Fort Collins. This includes energy audits of ten municipal buildings in Fort Collins, including City Hall, two community centers, fleet services, police services, office buildings, a performing arts center, a library, and an indoor swimming pool.

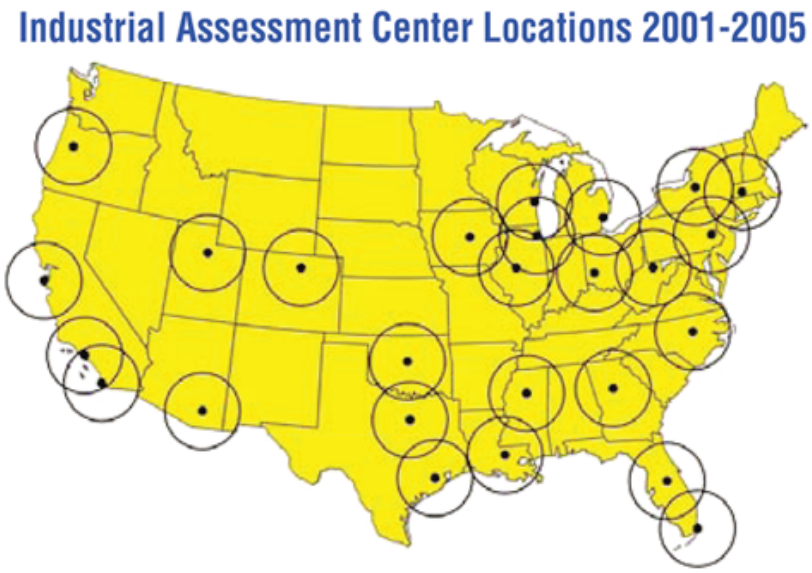
- *The Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance*—Working with their IAC alma mater, Judy and Julie focus on the installation and verification of energy-efficiency projects in small businesses in the northeast Denver metro area. The work entails energy savings and recovery, as well as renewable energy strategies for facility, process and fleet improvements. Savings are projected to be between 1.9 and 4 Gigawatthours (GWh) per year with annual savings ranging from $127,500 to $267,000, depending on the projects that are actually implemented. The average payback period on these projects is 1.5 years.

- *Weld County School District*—Energy-efficiency upgrades recommended by Judy and Julie at four elementary schools will save 138,951 kWh per year. The planned renovations for these schools include lighting and mechanical system upgrades.

- *State of Colorado Capital Complex Facilities*—Project activities include site visits and surveys for mechanical systems, and the analysis, development, and initial implementation of energy conservation measures that are projected to save the state 2.1 Gigawatthours (GWh) per year.

Focused on the Future

Judy and Julie recognize the importance of adding engineering licensure and certification to their professional accomplishments. Following the example set forth by Judy, Julie is currently working toward becoming a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) with the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) and a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the state of Colorado in addition to keeping up with her significant workload.



For Additional Information, Please Contact:

The Brendle Group
www.brendlegroup.com

Industrial Assessment Centers
Student Forum Website
www.iacforum.org

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov

Industrial Technologies Program
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585-0121
www.eere.energy.gov/industry/

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

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