During his inauguration remarks, ICC 2014-2015 Board President Guy Tomberlin announced his focus for the International Code Council would be the “next generation.” During a Town Hall Meeting on the Future of Code Officials at last year’s ICC Annual Conference, research conducted for the Code Council by the National Institute of Building Sciences revealed that over 80 percent of code officials plan to retire within the next 15 years, and more than 30 percent plan to do so within five years. Such a massive exodus of public safety professionals could have a serious impact on jurisdictions and public safety.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to address the problem. At the 2015 Conference a three-hour education session, the ICC Journey to Leadership, will look at ways to prepare mid-career building safety professionals for leadership positions and finding ways to welcome the next generation of code officials into the profession. Session leaders will include ICC Board Members and Past Presiding Officers. ICC and its Past Presiding Officers organized the first annual Ron Burton golf outing to raise funds to provide training and resources to address the critical need for future leaders in our profession.

Another Conference offering for Chapter presidents and leaders, Partners for Future Success, will identify the importance of leadership and maximizing each Chapter’s strengths, while building a strong foundation for the future of ICC Chapters and the ICC. The session will discuss the critical elements of leadership and the steps to continue building a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship between Chapters and the ICC.

The High School Technical Training Program is another initiative that makes the next generation aware of career opportunities as building safety officials. In 2009, a pilot program was started to introduce students to the residential code and how it is applied to the actual construction of a Habitat for Humanity home. Students and instructors referenced the International Residential Code® (IRC®) as they progressed through the construction of the home to help ensure they were manufacturing it in compliance with building codes in the jurisdiction. Using this technique of hands-on construction, paired with review and understanding of various codes involved with residential construction, students were introduced to the codes and obtained better comprehension of how residential construction and building codes work hand in hand to produce a strong, durable and safe structure.

The Networking Luncheon was created as a Conference event to support career advancement of ICC Members and those who lost their jobs as the economy forced building departments to reduce staff. The way we search for jobs today is very different than it was in the past. The days of reading through ads in a newspaper or professional digest are long gone. Today job seekers need to know how to search online and have an online presence to reach recruiters. One example is the Career Center on the ICC website, where you can search for jobs and, if you are a Member, post job openings at no cost and take advantage of other features. This year, Brent Gleeson, a Navy SEAL combat veteran with multiple tours to Iraq and Africa, will be the guest speaker during the Networking Luncheon. Upon leaving SEAL Team 5 Gleeson turned his discipline and battlefield lessons to the world of business and has become an accomplished entrepreneur, writer and acclaimed speaker on topics ranging from leadership to entrepreneurship and marketing.
2014-2015 Board President Guy Tomberlin is sworn in by ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims. Along with his wife Sandy, President Tomberlin selected seven witnesses who were both friends and colleagues: Bill Dupler, Brian Foley, Henry Green, Ron Piester, Michael Reilly, Emory Rodgers and Sims. Tomberlin stressed the importance of a network and how working together is not an option but the clear path to success.

The ICC High School Technical Training Program’s four-part structure enables a school to integrate one or more parts into its construction trade curricula. Students completing all elements of a part, including a final exam, receive a nationally-recognized Certificate of Achievement (COA) from ICC. The first students at York County (Penn.) School of Technology receive their COAs on a press and observation building they constructed on their athletic field.

One of the most popular sessions at the 2014 ICC Annual Conference was the Town Hall Meeting on the Future of Code Officials. The event discussed the expected exodus of code officials as baby boomers retire and the impact that will have on jurisdictions and public safety.

ICC Board President Guy Tomberlin tells Members at the Annual Banquet that his focus and theme for 2015 is “the next generation.” This is the time to commit to succession planning, mentoring and raising the profile, Tomberlin said. “It is our responsibly to help implement a process that will motivate and inspire the next generation. We are the group that has to identify future talent whether it’s in your office, at a Chapter meeting... or at... ICC conferences.”

To support ICC Members seeking to advance their careers, Frank De Safey and Craig Travis of Sequence Staffing spoke during the Networking Luncheon about networking in the era of electronics, online applications, and the ins and outs of navigating the ever-changing employment industry landscape.

ICC Board Member Greg Wheeler comments during the Town Hall Meeting on the Future of Code Officials.