Edd Gibson, PhD, P.E., is the director of the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University. He is establishing a center to ensure that design safety will be part of every engineering degree. Traditionally, the fundamentals of ensuring safe design and construction methods have been absent from the programs at the various colleges and universities of engineering. At commencement, an individual who receives a degree in engineering has no marketable skills to ensure safe design or planning and organizing construction projects. AECOM, one of the largest engineering firms involved in both design and build, provides training on design-based safety for many of its engineers. The value of this program is substantial, as it prevents injury and death, reduces insurance costs and minimizes costly safety management activity on how to inspect, supervise and train their workforce to recognize and avoid hazardous conditions. The key issue with design safety is that many hazards are eliminated, so there is a reduced exposure to danger during construction, operation or maintenance.

Dr. Gibson is among the rare few in academia who see the bigger picture and are able to formulate solutions that will benefit all enterprises. His solution is to establish momentum and a priority for including design-based safety as a requirement for an engineering degree with short, two-day courses on design safety. These short-term courses will become the proving ground of effective design safety engineering training.

Expertise in the development of design-based safety engineering course training has been largely a result of volunteer support of members of the International System Safety Society (ISSS). Since the 1960s, with the advent of MIL-STD-882, defense contractors have ensured design-based safety as a requirement for an engineering degree with short, two-day courses on design safety. These short-term courses will become the proving ground of effective design safety engineering training.

For those who want to volunteer or learn more about Dr. Edd Gibson’s Design Safety Engineering, he can be reached as follows:

G. Edward Gibson, PhD, P.E.
Director, Professor and Sunstate Chair
Arizona State University, Tempe Campus
Tempe, AZ 85287-5306
Phone: + 1 480-965-7972

The annual ISSS Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona beginning August 13, 2018 in connection with Arizona State University. Dr. Gibson oversees a graduate-level course on design safety. An interesting topic for this Conference should be a summary of the students’ opinions concerning design-based safety.