

HOOSIER SURVEYOR

MARCH 2025

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2025 Annual Convention In Summary
- Legal Surveys
- A Busy Year of Workforce Development
- And More



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SUBMIT CONTENT FOR THE HOOSIER SURVEYOR

If you have an article to share or a story to tell, we want to hear from you! Please submit content to our Communications Coordinator via email (kanderson@ispls.org).

The Hoosier Surveyor is published quarterly by the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors to inform land surveyors and related professions, government officials, educational institutions, libraries, contractors, suppliers and associated businesses and industries about land surveying affairs.

Articles and columns appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of ISPLS or the Hoosier Surveyor staff, but are published as a service to its members, the general public and for the betterment of the surveying profession. No responsibility is assumed for errors, misquotes or deletions as to its content.

COVER IMAGE

Incoming ISPLS President Alex Daugherty presents Past President Ryan Selby with the ceremonial gavel in thanks for his service as the Society's president in 2024.

The gavel was presented at the Awards Banquet of the 2025 Annual Convention on Thursday, January 16.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY ALEX
DAUGHERTY, PS,
ISPLS PRESIDENT

I want to start by thanking the members of our society for entrusting me to hold this position. It's an honor to have earned your trust. I will do my best to uphold my position as president and to build upon the success of my predecessors. My message at the banquet was that no single person can fix the struggles surrounding our profession. A board of 12 individuals elected to serve our society can make a dent, but there is still a heavy lift to be had. We are a membership of over 560 professionals and qualified technicians. I encourage everyone, regardless of classification, to get involved, share ideas, and continue to be part of the change we all want to see. Together, as a collective society, we can make a difference!

Being in the Evansville area, getting involved with ISPLS at the state society's level was something I thought would be difficult due to logistical hurdles. But now that I have made the commitment, I have learned there are many ways to contribute your time and expertise, from serving on committees and attending local events to leading educational sessions and mentoring young professionals.

Whether you have an hour a month or can dedicate more time, your involvement is valuable. Reach out to our committee chairs to learn about current volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, or areas where your skills could be most beneficial.

As our profession continues to evolve, the need for skilled professionals has never been greater. Despite the growing importance, surveying remains an under-recognized career path for many students and young professionals. That's where we, as a society, can make a lasting impact.

Volunteering with the ISPLS is more than just a way to give back; it is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally while making a significant impact on the future of surveying in Indiana. By joining forces with fellow professionals, we can ensure that our industry remains strong, innovative, and well represented in the years to come. Your involvement today will help build a strong tomorrow for the surveying community. Get involved, make a difference, and let's continue to shape the future of Indiana surveying together!



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2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

IN SUMMARY

The 73rd Annual Convention was a success! We spent January 15-17 at the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville, IN.

With over 400 attendees and 20 exhibitors, the event was full of networking and camaraderie!

The event featured 19 education sessions totaling over 50 CEU hours offered, covering various topics and the latest trends in surveying technology.

At Thursday's Awards Banquet, now Past-President Ryan Selby recognized three individuals with awards.

The Atlas Award is given to one individual each year for service above and beyond to the Geomatics profession. This individual possesses outstanding leadership skills and devotes their time and energy toward the advancement of the profession while holding the weight of society on their back. This year's Atlas Award recipient was Rodney Kelly.



Past-President Ryan Selby (left) presents Rodney Kelly with the Atlas Award.

The President's Award is a recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the profession, selected by the ISPLS President. This year, Ryan Selby presented awards to Ed Barnett and Mike Smith.



Past-President Ryan Selby (right) presents Mike Smith with a President's Award. Not pictured is Ed Barnett, who also received a President's Award.

Additionally, scholarship recipients were recognized at the Awards Banquet, including those distributed by the Society and individual chapters.

Jona Odell was the 2024 recipient of the Indiana Professional Land Surveyors Foundation Benchmark Scholarship.



Jona Odell is recognized as the Indiana Professional Land Surveyors Foundation Benchmark Scholarship recipient by Jon Polson, ISPLS Scholarship Chair.

Alex Nealis was the 2024 recipient of the Peggy Archer Memorial Scholarship.



Alex Nealis is recognized as the Peggy Archer Memorial Scholarship recipient by Jon Polson, ISPLS Scholarship Chair.

Brandon Hauser was awarded scholarship dollars from ISPLS.



Brandon Hauser is recognized as a recipient of ISPLS scholarship funds by Jon Polson, ISPLS Scholarship Chair.

Quade Gill was also awarded scholarship dollars, but was not present at the Awards Banquet.

Lotty Bonnell and Alex Nealis each received \$1,500 in scholarship funds from the Southwest Chapter.



Lotty Bonnell (left) and Alex Nealis (right) were each awarded \$1,500 in scholarship funds from the Southwest Chapter, represented by Alex Daugherty (center).

In addition to thanking the 2024 Board of Directors for their service over the past year, the 2025 Board of Directors was officially installed and pledged their dedication to the Society for the upcoming year.

Alex Daugherty, now current President of ISPLS, thanked Ryan Selby, now Past President, for his service in 2024 by presenting him with a ceremonial gavel.



Past President Ryan Selby (left) receives the ceremonial gavel from Alex Daugherty, ISPLS President.

Thanks to all who attended the event and our sponsors and exhibitors for their support. We're excited to have next year's convention at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville, IN from January 28-30, 2026.



2025 Board of Directors: Ryan Selby, Zach Beasley, Jon Polson, Jacob Hoffman, Jessica Hess, Don Williams, Eric Meeks, Ryan Swingley, Vince Barr, John Williams, Alex Daugherty, and Rich Hudson

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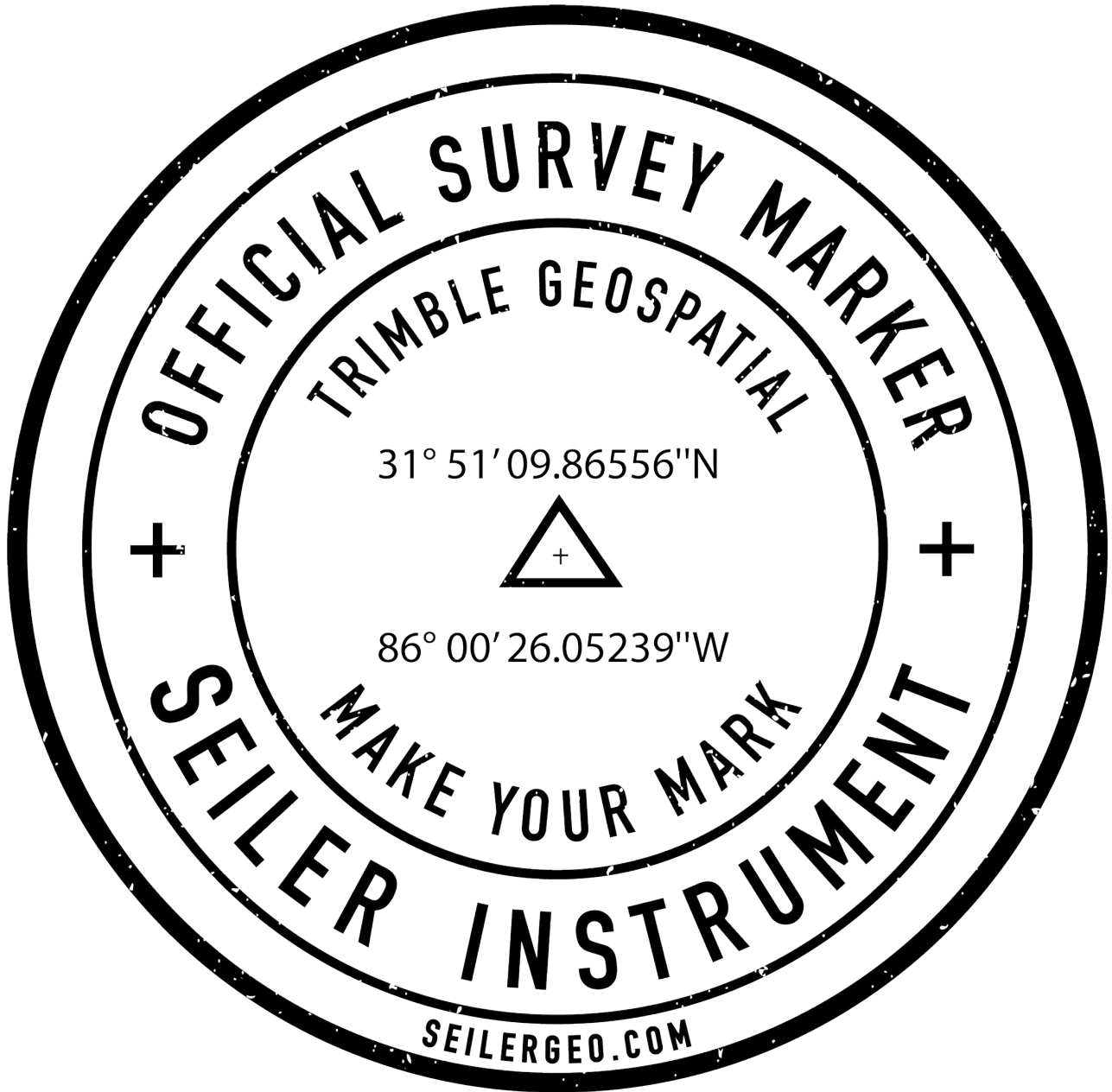




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LEGAL SURVEYS



BY **BRYAN F. CATLIN, PS**

The goal of this column is to provide brief summaries of recent Indiana Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases involving topics related to surveying practice, certainly not to provide legal advice. I use Google Scholar to search for Indiana cases. Once cases are found, I search for a case by a party's name or case number on the Indiana Courts website to obtain a more conveniently formatted document at www.in.gov/judiciary. Comments or suggestions for future columns are welcome by email to: Bryan.Catlin@indy.gov.

As a reminder, I am still looking for someone, or a group of people, to take over this column as I near retirement.

Fort Wayne Wood, LLC, and Dennis Fahlsing v. Leslie A. Friedel and Adam Friedel, Indiana Court of Appeals Case No. 24A-PL-334, November 25, 2024 - MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent

The Friedels own a landlocked parcel in Dekalb County with access via an express easement created for ingress and egress reserved in a prior deed of the property they acquired in 2020 when it was separated from what is now the Fort Wayne Wood,

LLC (owned by Dennis Fahlsing) property in 1964. This easement has been included in each deed of the dominant estate since 1964, including the 2020 deed. The Friedel property lies north of railroad tracks without a crossing. The Fort Wayne Wood property runs from the north line of the Friedel property to State Road 8, and the easement in question runs generally from near the northwest corner of the Friedel property slightly northeasterly to SR 8. The west line of the easement is described as an existing ditch (the Frank Yarde Regulated Drain), and the east line of the easement was marked by certain definite points running generally parallel to the ditch and along the road at the time “as more particularly set forth on the survey” attached to the deed. The deed provided the easement “shall run with the land for the purpose of ingress and egress”

Recently, Fahlsing began to impede use of the easement by placing downed trees and telephone poles in or along the road; by digging trenches across the easement, severely damaging the road; and by causing the road to be rerouted and moved to the west, creating a virtually impassable portion of roadway. In addition, Fahlsing approached and questioned invitees using the road to the dominant estate.

On February 10, 2023, the Friedels filed a complaint for easement, injunctive relief, and damages against Fahlsing. A bench trial was held October 9, 2023.

By agreement of the parties, the Dekalb Superior Court bifurcated the issues and only addressed the existence and extent of the express easement.

During the trial, a Professional Engineer and Surveyor found that due to erosion of the ditch, the ditch was now as close as 15 feet from the edge of the roadway, and if left unchecked, erosion will continue to cut eastward. In addition, he found uncertainty of 18 to 20 feet in the depiction of the east line of the easement because of the use of antiquated surveying measurement tools when the easement was created.

On December 4, 2023, the trial court found Fahlsing had “significantly interfered with and, in fact, moved the location of the roadway that was historically used to access” the dominant estate, and the Friedels were entitled to relief under the doctrine of implied easement by necessity and/or the doctrine of implied easement by prior use.

The Friedels were instructed to have the surveyor prepare a new survey from SR 8 across the servient estate that shall be forty (40) feet wide and take into account the maintenance easement of the regulated drain and the past erosion and reasonably anticipated future erosion of said drain. The court would reconvene after the filing of the new survey to address the reasonableness of the new survey, the damages caused by Fahlsing and the request for an injunction.

On January 3, 2024, Fahlsing filed a motion to declare the court order final and appealable, which was granted on January 8.

On appeal, it was found the trial court had sua sponte, that is, of its own accord without a request from either party, relinquished an express easement, which was clearly fixed in location by use over several decades, in favor of creating an implied easement by necessity or prior use. Because there was no consent or abandonment, the trial court essentially created a second easement, an implied easement,

to accomplish what the express easement was created to achieve, the Friedels' unfettered access to SR 8. This was found to be a governmental taking for a purely private use, which is constrained by the Indiana Constitution. Because the express easement and historical pathway was adequate for access, the trial court had no discretion to expand it or restrict its terms. The trial court order was reversed and remanded to determine the extent and scope of reasonable repairs, improvements, or alterations necessary to the express easement.

Bryan F. Catlin, PS has been registered as a Land Surveyor in Indiana since 1991. He holds B.S. Land Surveying Engineering and M.S. Engineering (Geodesy) degrees from Purdue University.

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SHOOTING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

HOOSIER HILLS CHAPTER

Hoosier Hills Chapter of ISPLS hosted the inaugural fundraiser “Shooting for Scholarships” on September 28, 2024 at Sugar Creek Sporting Clays & Hunting Preserve in Mitchell, Indiana.

Even with the tail-end weather of Hurricane Helene, 46 participated in the event with 37 shooters enduring the weather to travel the course in the day’s event. Each participant in teams of 4 or as individuals made a round of skeet shooting on the course, consisting of 100 shots, between 6 and 8 shots at each of 15 stations.

A meal was provided by the chapter from Trojan Horse in Bloomington. Those attending participants also received signature event hats and awards presented.

Overall the event was a success! The chapter raised just over \$4,400 to be applied to the annual Scholarship funding and Special Projects in advancing the Surveying Profession.

The Hoosier Hills Chapter would like to thank the following Team Sponsors:

- Darnall Family – Ted Darnall
- Meeks & Company Professional Surveying – Eric Meeks
- Foresight Land Surveying - Daniel Blann

- Deckard Land Surveying – Eric Deckard
- ESP Associates – Ryan Swingley
- Bledsoe Riggert Cooper James (BRCJ) – Chris Porter
- VS Engineering – Vince Barr
- Team Coyle – Jason Coyle
- Fox Construction – Tony Fox

Additionally, the chapter is grateful for the support of the following general sponsors of this event:

- Oser Surveying & Mapping – Rachel Oser
- Milestone Design Group – Tim Thomas
- Smith Design Group – Todd Borgman
- SJCA, Inc. – Ryan Perry

A special thank you to the following for their support in making this event possible:

- Attendee Gifts & Awards - made possible by Tony Zizak
- Brian and Andrea Waldbieser – Owner & Operators of Sugar Creek Sporting Clays & Hunting Preserve
- Vincennes University Student, Lotty Bonnell



(L to R) Vince Barr, Ray Knourek, Andrew Barr, A.J. Barr



(L to R) Terry Bennett, Jason Coyle, Shane Bennett, Noah Coyle



(L to R) Tony Zizak, Eric Deckard, Ryan Perry, Michael Sheppard (Back - Lotty Bonnell)



Top Team Award went to (L to R) Tony Fox, Jason Bland, Tom Winger, and Greg Fox.



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A BUSY YEAR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



BY RODNEY KELLY,
PS

The year was as busy as it had ever been, which is a good thing because it shows there is interest. There have been some upticks and inquiries into school visits but staffing volunteers (especially in random/remote locations) or timing have prevented a lot of them from happening in years past. This, by far, has been Workforce Development (WFD)/ Outreach's biggest challenge since its inception. The financial support from the board and society has been great and will need to continue in future years.

The volunteers who have stepped up year after year, event after event, deserve the most credit and affirmation from the board and professional society. They have done the heavy lifting for the betterment of our profession to positively promote it, with selflessness.

Thank you to all those individuals and the firms that allow their participation. To go through every person, that I know, who volunteered would be leaving out a significant number of surveyors and professionals that I have found

out have been and continue to do outreach in their local community without support or knowledge from our society. That hopefully is a gap that gets filled in the years to come.

As in past years, I have tried to bridge the work of others at a national level to the state, so I respectfully submit the information from NSPS's WFD Committee that should be disseminated in some way to the society.

Here are some of the top items the NSPS WFD Committee completed in 2024:

Career View XR

The Be a Surveyor VR Experience captured 11 immersive video scenes to share the surveying industry with students. This seven minute experience allows students to be immersed in real-world job sites and authentic career experiences.

Be More Colorful, the parent company of Career View XR, financed the entire \$25,000 for video production and development. They are considering a state licensing fee for individual states wishing to utilize this for their outreach efforts.

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) will be purchasing a few licenses and VR headsets and will have those available for "checkout" through their resource hub.



A young student explores the world of surveying with a VR headset at the Future City Competition in February 2024.

Building a Sustainable Land Surveying Profession through Credentialing, Education, and Leadership

NSPS's WFD Committee developed a guide titled "Building a Sustainable Land Surveying Profession through Credentialing, Education, and Leadership: Educating and Retaining Our Existing Workforce with a Step-by-Step Guide."

The guide is designed to help companies and business owners strengthen and retain their workforce within the land surveying profession.

Click [here](#) to view the guidebook.

NSPS Young Surveyors Network Mentoring Packet

The NSPS WFD Committee collaborated closely with the NSPS Young Surveyors Network (YSN), providing support and recommendations to assist in the development of their new YSN Mentoring Packet. This packet was launched in January 2025, and the program is set to begin at the end of March 2025.

Click [here](#) to view the packet.

Outreach 101

The committee dedicated approximately nine months to creating “Outreach 101 – A Guide to Outreach for Land Survey and

Mapping Careers.” This document was finalized earlier last year and debuted at the 2024 NSPS Spring Meetings in Washington, DC, last April.

The guide is designed to aid those interested in promoting land surveying and mapping careers to the next generation. Outreach is essential for engaging future land surveyors and mappers, and it is our collective responsibility to actively support and advance the profession.

Click [here](#) to view the guidebook.

Military Committee

At the 2024 NSPS Spring Meetings, the Board of Directors voted and approved the creation of a special

committee named the “Military Committee” to provide a direct connection and liaison between NSPS, their members, and the US Military and ex-military members.

The NSPS WFD Committee was essential in bringing this motion forward!

ISPLS was represented at various events, including but not limited to S.T.E.A.M. Night w/ Indianapolis Indians, INDOT Future Leaders, JAJobspark, Indiana School Counselor Association Fall Conference, FFA, and countless career fairs and classroom visits.



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HONORING ENOCH R. GRAY, III
UPON HIS RETIREMENT
DECEMBER 31, 2024



WHEREAS, Enoch R. Gray, III was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and raised in Owen County, Indiana, graduating from Spencer High School; and obtained an Associate of Arts Degree from Ivy Tech Community College; continuing his career working as a technician at Dunlap Engineering, SIECO (now Strand Associates), and Columbus Surveying and Engineering, all in Columbus, Indiana;

WHEREAS, E. R. earned his Professional Surveying License becoming a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Indiana January 5, 1984, and was appointed Bartholomew County Surveyor in April of 1984, and elected successively until retirement;

WHEREAS, E. R.'s vision, hard work, talent, and leadership resulted in many accolades on County, State, and National levels. Perhaps one of his greatest achievements was the completion of the perpetuation of all Original Government Corners established in 1819 for the United States Public Land Survey System. The honors bestowed include the National Society of Professional Surveyors, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, among others, at a recognition ceremony held October 6, 1988 in Columbus, Indiana. Bartholomew County became the first county in the state of Indiana, and the sixth county in the entire country having accomplished such a feat.

WHEREAS, E. R.'s dedication, commitment, and loyalty to his profession is recognized by his peers receiving the "Outstanding County Surveyor Award" from the Association of Indiana Counties, Inc. in 1989; a "Membership Award" presented by the Surveyors Historical Society in 1989; the "Outstanding Service Award" from the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers in 1990; recognized as a "Charter Member" of the National Association of County Surveyors in 1991; a "Certificate of Achievement as Distinguished Surveyor Award" for undertaking and completing Voluntary Professional Development" presented by the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors in 1996; and the "Presidents Award" from the County Surveyors Association of Indiana in 1994.

WHEREAS, E. R.'s compassion for community has led him to serve as Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors Treasurer for 1990, 1991, and 1992; Vice-President in 1993; President-Elect in 1994; President in 1995; and Board of Directors in 1996. Additionally, Chairman of the Surveyors Historical Society, 1993-1994; Board of Governors for National Society of Professional Surveyors, 1994. Serving over 8 years as a member and in leadership positions on the Indiana State Board of Registration for Professional Surveyors. Representing the citizens of Bartholomew County nationwide, he attended GIS/LIS conferences, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing/American Congress on Surveying and Mapping conventions, and various bi-state and tri-state Surveyor Conferences.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned, current employees of the Bartholomew County Surveyor's Office, do hereby solemnly publish, declare, and issue this Proclamation to Enoch R. Gray, III in recognition of his many achievements, and we extend our gratitude and appreciation to E. R. for his many years of exemplary service as Bartholomew County Surveyor. We congratulate him for a job well done and wish him continued success and happiness as he retires.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we do hereby set our signatures affirming the contents of the above proclamation this 13th day of December, 2024.

Tom R. Finkle
Greg Dibble *Cris West*
Rik Sanders
Nick Meyer

Jeff Lucas (1979)
Gary Settle (1979)
Rik Sanders (1980)
Tom Finkle (1986)
Cris West (1996)
Greg Dibble (1998)
Nick Meyer (2020)

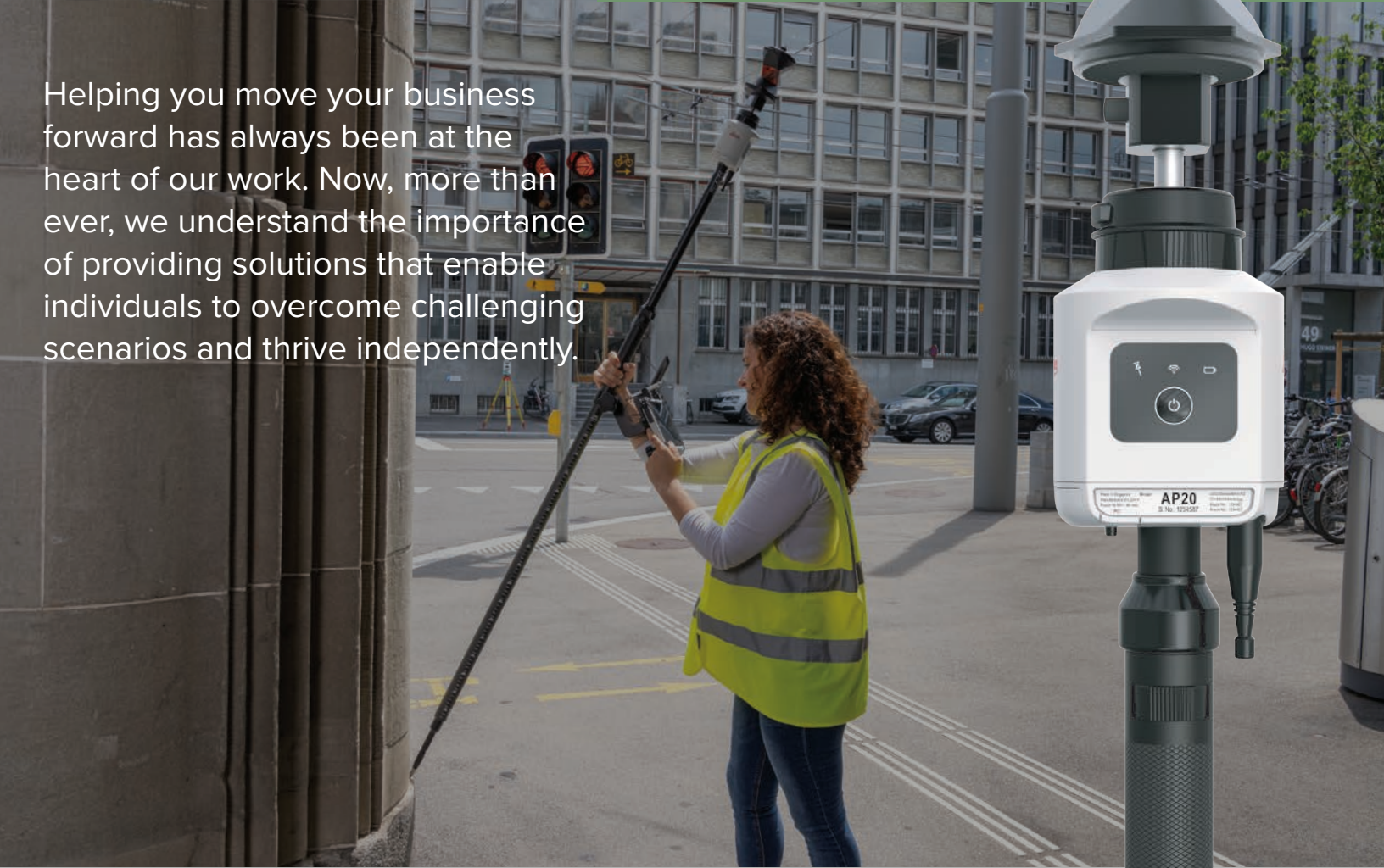
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