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Doing Well by Doing Good

Build a Business. Preserve the Environment

Now more than ever, we need women like Dr. Shirley Conibear, founder, president and senior scientist of Carnow, Conibear & Associates (CCA). She has devoted her career and directed CCA to solve some of the most diverse and complex environmental challenges facing businesses and communities today. Her projects are setting new standards for balancing business interests and the safety of workers and our environment.

Dr. Conibear has assembled more than 50 scientists and engineers and built a clientele that includes some of the world's largest global companies and some of the most vital local businesses, schools and public places. Regardless of size, if there is an environmental or occupational health concern, these diverse organizations recognize CCA as the leading source for credible, comprehensive and practical solutions.



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Independent and curious by nature, Dr. Conibear was fascinated by math and science at an early age and wasn't troubled being the only girl in the lab. Later, she discovered her entrepreneurial streak, preferring to run her own business over more conventional corporate and academic opportunities. In 1975, she cofounded CCA with one of her professors and mentors from the University of Illinois, Dr. Bertram Carnow. She learned that working with a variety of businesses rather than exclusively within one company was demanding but gave her the advantage of compiling an extensive and diverse base of knowledge on a broad range of environmental and occupational health and safety issues. She relished the continuous challenge of finding a solution – often to problems that had never before been tackled.

"We often work in the *boundary areas*, where public health, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene and public relations intersect," explains Dr. Conibear. "We can be effective here

because we have a team with strong expertise in the applied sciences of industrial hygiene and environmental engineering, architecture, statistics, geology, occupational safety and occupational medicine. We take a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving on a wide array of projects, particularly projects without precedent, from conceptualization to conclusion."

In one example, CCA took on a project for a large suburban school system where others had tried and failed. The school system was dealing with a state-mandated shutdown of its facility; confronted with the possibility of demolishing a \$20M+ public asset; and faced with a community that was convinced that the school would never be made suitable for its children or teachers. In nine months, Dr. Conibear and the CCA team not only restored the building's air quality but also restored the confidence of the parents and state and local school officials that the building was once again safe for children, teachers and staff.

Shirley A. Conibear, MD, MPH, FACPM, CIME

Dr. Conibear is a frequent speaker at business events and the author of numerous industry articles and original research. A volunteer on the Board of Health, she is a trustee for Shimer College, an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, and a member of the board of directors for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

"My career has been defined by a combination of intellectual curiosity and hard work. My goal, our goal, is to be the first call for businesses large and small facing difficult environmental and occupational safety threats," explains Dr. Conibear.

Dr. Conibear and her firm, Carnow, Conibear & Associates are prepared to take on the toughest environmental and occupational safety hazards faced by businesses today. Her personal example of passion, curiosity and hard work assures that CCA will continue to be the trusted resource for businesses, government agencies and communities, large and small.

Your
 Environmental
 Resource

**CARNOW
 CONIBEAR**

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