

Korn award goes to paper on beam-to-column moment connections

The 2026 Martin P. Korn Award was presented to Malcolm L. Ammons, Jonathan M. Weigand, Majd Hijazi, and Travis E. Thonstad for their paper “Experimental Evaluation of Novel Precast Concrete Beam-to-Column Moment Connections for Enhanced Collapse Resistance,” published in the July–August 2025 issue of *PCI Journal*. The Martin P. Korn Award is given to the best design or research paper related to buildings appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.

This study tested two precast concrete moment frame assemblies under a notional column-removal scenario. Derived from a 10-story prototype building, each assembly connected two spandrel beams to an unsupported central column. Either anchor bolts or high-strength threaded rods were threaded into couplers embedded near the tops and bottoms of the columns to make moment connections. The connection components were centered on the thickness of the beams to limit the eccentricity of the tensile force transfer path. When the central columns were subjected to monotonically increasing vertical displacement, the assemblies failed from the rupture of an anchor bolt or threaded rod at the bottom connection. The connections did not require field welding, were easily constructed, and had a reserve capacity against collapse under sudden column loss that was greater than the reserve capacity of conventional steel link plate moment connections. These advantages suggest the viability of these connections for use in precast concrete construction. This research was conducted with support from PCI, and specimens were fabricated by Tindall Corp.

Ammons is a research structural engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Md.; Weigand is a research structural engineer



Malcolm L. Ammons



Majd Hijazi



Jonathan M. Weigand



Travis E. Thonstad

at NIST in Gaithersburg; Hijazi is an assistant professor in the College of Architecture and Planning at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Thonstad is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle. They were presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

Paper on concrete failure in strand lifting loops receives Lyman award

The 2026 Lyman Award was presented to Young-Hun Oh, Gang-Chul Lee, HyunSup Noh, Kyeong Woong Ra, NanHee Lee, and Jeong-Ho Moon for their paper “Experimental and Analytical Investigation of Concrete Failure Modes in Strand Lifting Loops Under Inclined Loads,” which was published in the September–October 2025 issue of *PCI Journal*. The Robert J. Lyman Award recognizes *PCI Journal* papers dealing with the construction, production, and/or erection of precast concrete.

This study investigated the use of strand lifting loops for handling precast concrete components. Variables included edge distance, lifting angle, and embedment depth. A finite element analysis of the experimental conditions was conducted to validate the experimental method. Twenty-four specimens were tested under individually applied loads, and the failure modes and strengths of the specimens were analyzed with respect to the key variables. The



Young-Hun Oh



Gang-Chul Lee



HyunSup Noh



Kyeong Woong Ra



NanHee Lee



Jeong-Ho Moon

failure modes—concrete splitting failure, concrete breakout failure, and strand tensile rupture—were all closely related to the influencing factor, embedment depth divided by edge distance. Based on the results, the authors proposed modification factors for the design of strand lifting loops. The predicted strengths obtained by applying these modification factors to the *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-19)* and *Commentary (ACI 318R-19)*, anchor design equations effectively reflected the effects of the key variables.

Oh is a professor in the Department of Medical Space Design and Construction at Konyang University in Daejeon, South Korea; Lee is president of Onetop Engineering Co. in Seoul, South Korea; Noh is group leader of the Structural Technology Group at Samsung C & T Corp. in Seoul; Ra is a professional engineer in the Structural Technology Group at Samsung C & T Corp. in Seoul; Lee is a professional engineer in the High-Tech Engineering Team at Samsung C & T Corp. in Seoul; and Moon is a professor emeritus of architectural engineering at Hannam University in Daejeon, South Korea, and director of the Research Institute of Onetop Engineering Co. They were presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

Nasser award goes to authors of paper about test methods for wall panel connectors

The 2026 Nasser Award recipients are Fray F. Pozo-Lora, Abdelrahman Awawdeh, Mohammad Tahat, Salam Al-Rubaye, and Marc Maguire for their paper “A Comprehensive Approach to Establishing a Standard Test Method for Evaluating Insulated Wall Panel Wythe Connector Performance,” which was published in the November–December 2025 issue of *PCI Journal*. PCI supported the research upon which this paper is based. This award is given to a young author or authors for the best design, research, or state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.

This paper presents research to develop a standard for testing braced and unbraced double shear and flexural specimens to obtain the mechanical properties of partially composite wythe connectors. In the study, 107 specimens were tested to investigate variables that affect connector shear and stiffness testing results. The double shear tests provided more-accurate mechanical properties than tests of the flexural specimens. Moreover, bracing

or increasing the length of the specimen up to 12 ft (3.6 m) had no significant impact on the mechanical properties of the wythe connectors compared with 4 ft (1.2 m) long specimens. The outcomes of this study will help the precast concrete community better understand the behavior of wythe connectors and test them with a certain level of confidence.

Pozo-Lora is a senior research associate at the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Scott Campus; Awawdeh is a structural engineer-in-training at Wells at Kissimmee, Fla.; Tahat is a project manager at WGI Inc. in Tallahassee, Fla.; Al-Rubaye is a former research and testing engineer at Dayton Superior Corp. in Miamisburg, Ohio; and Maguire is an associate professor at the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Scott Campus. They were presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.



Fray F. Pozo-Lora



Mohammad Tahat



Marc Maguire



Abdelrahman
Awawdeh



Salam Al-Rubaye

Paper examining CFRP repair of corroded pile bents receives Zollman award

The winners of the 2026 Zollman Award are Gray Mullins, Rajan Sen, Jethro Clarke, Tristen Mee, Amanda Lewis, and Malaak Araujo for their paper “Lateral Capacity and Repair of Corrosion-Damaged Pile Bents, Part 3: Carbon-Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Application and Strength Testing,” which was published in the September–October 2025 issue of *PCI Journal*. The Zollman Award honors an author or authors for the best design, research, or state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete in the area of transportation infrastructure appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.



Gray Mullins



Rajan Sen



Jethro Clarke



Tristen Mee

This study tested the lateral load capacity of a one-third-scale bridge pile bent constructed with five piles that had greater than 96% cross-sectional steel strand loss and were repaired with carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer (CFRP) material to restore bending resistance. The specimen's lateral load capacity met and exceeded that of an undamaged, uncorroded pile bent built from the same lot of prestressed concrete piles, which had been tested 20 years earlier. Test results also demonstrated the suitability of numerical modeling to predict the strength gain from CFRP wrap repairs.



Amanda Lewis



Malaak Araujo

Mullins is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla.; Sen is professor emeritus and the inaugural Samuel and Julia Flom Chair in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida; Clarke is a lead structural engineer at Carollo

Engineers in Orlando, Fla., and was a structural engineer at CDM Smith at the time of the paper's publication; Mee is an engineer and project manager at Structural Engineering and Inspections Inc. in Lutz, Fla.; Lewis is a design engineer for Menard USA in Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Araujo is a project engineer with Revamp Engineering Inc. who works in the greater Seattle, Wash., area. They were presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

PCI Journal seeks your opinions in survey

PCI Journal would like your input for the 2026 reader and author survey. The survey focuses on what readers would like to see more of in the publication and what the *PCI Journal* staff can do to improve the reader experience.



2027 PCI COMMITTEE DAYS AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

PCI invites abstracts for technical papers, topics, or sessions to be presented September 21–25, 2027, at the 2027 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference in Rosemont, Ill. This is an excellent opportunity to gain exposure and contribute to the precast, prestressed concrete industry's body of knowledge.

Abstracts may be submitted for peer-reviewed papers with presentations or presentation-only submissions. They should be no more than 200 words and should adequately describe the topic. All abstracts and papers should relate to the design, analysis, materials, production, erection, sustainable benefits, or maintenance and/or repair

of precast concrete. Case studies, research, and project profiles are all welcome. There will be two tracks: Buildings/Materials and Infrastructure/Bridges. Papers will be invited after abstract peer review. Full manuscripts of peer-reviewed papers will be published online in the conference proceedings at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/Publications/Proceedings.aspx>.

All presenters of peer-reviewed papers are required to register for the 2027 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference and present their papers in person. For submission details or to submit abstracts electronically no later than November 20, 2026, visit [pci.org/callforpapers](https://www.pci.org/callforpapers).

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS THEME ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

PCI Journal invites authors with experience in the use of the latest generation of alternative or sustainable cementitious materials for precast concrete components for its Sustainable Materials-themed November–December 2027 issue.

Editors are seeking original research articles, case studies, and reviews related to the development of high-early-strength concrete using alternative mixtures, scalability of sustainable mixtures for large-scale production, and design recommendations for mixture proportions with high-volume portland cement replacement.

The deadline to submit papers for this special issue is January 15, 2027, with final manuscript submission after peer-review acceptance being August 1, 2027. Submit manuscripts through the *PCI Journal* online submission system at <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/pcijournal>. For detailed guidance, please refer to the *PCI Journal* Submission Guidelines available at https://www.pci.org/PCI/PCI/Publications/PCI_Journal/Submission_Guidelines.aspx or by visiting the *PCI Journal* webpage at <https://www.pci.org/PCI-Journal> and clicking on Submission Guidelines.

"We want our members and readers to get the most out of *PCI Journal* content, and we value the feedback we get from these surveys," says Michelle Burgess, *PCI Journal* managing editor. "It helps us make the publication as useful as possible."

A link to the survey is available on the *PCI Journal* webpage at <https://www.pci.org/PCI-Journal> or directly at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/NwAqFemT6D>.

Survey participants can choose to be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$25 gift cards. The survey closes November 15, 2026.

PCI publications' 2027 media kit now available

The *PCI Journal*, *Ascent*, and *Aspire* media kits are now available at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/Publications/Media-Kit.aspx>. The kits list issue themes, ad rates, and due dates. For new 2027 pricing deals and for details about advertising, email Natalie Martin, PCI's director of business development and membership, at nmartin@pci.org.



scacco promoted to senior publications manager

Lisa scacco has been promoted to senior publications manager at PCI, effective July 1. scacco supports PCI as project manager for technical publications and production manager for *PCI Journal* and *Aspire*.

In her expanded role, she will continue coordinating publication of PCI's periodicals, technical manuals, and other member and institute materials while working across PCI departments to develop publications and collateral. scacco will also support PCI's technical team and Technical Activities Council, including ballot management and coordination. In addition, she will continue supporting the business development team with publications advertising tracking and coordination. This year, she is leading a project to catalog PCI's body of knowledge.

scacco joined PCI as publications manager in 2016. Before joining PCI, scacco worked in printing, client services, and publishing. She holds a B.A. in English from the



lisa scacco

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and completed the Stanford Professional Publishing Course.

Industry Handbook Committee appoints Taghizadeh chair, seeks new members

PCI has named Roksana Taghizadeh chair of the Industry Handbook Committee for the 10th edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. The upcoming edition represents a significant milestone because it will be the first edition coordinated with ACI/PCI 319 *Structural Precast Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary* and will provide guidance for applying the new code provisions to precast concrete design and construction.

"I am honored and excited to have been appointed chair of the 10th edition of the *PCI Design Handbook*," Taghizadeh says. "As the primary technical reference supporting the implementation of the new codes, the handbook will play a critical role in helping engineers, producers, and industry stakeholders apply its provisions in practice."

PCI is seeking qualified volunteers to serve on the 10th edition Industry Handbook Committee. Committee members will help develop design guidance and resources for the industry. Applications are being accepted through December 1, 2026, on PCI's Committee Central application page at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/Applications/Committee.aspx>.



Roksana Taghizadeh



The ninth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* was recently released, and the Industry Handbook Committee is beginning work on the 10th edition.

North Carolina State University wins 2026 PCI Big Beam

North Carolina State University won the 2026 PCI Engineering Student Design Competition, also known as the Big Beam Contest, an annual nationwide challenge

that encourages college students to demonstrate excellence in structural design, teamwork, and innovation using precast, prestressed concrete.



Logan Bonner (left) and Conrad Kang, students at North Carolina State University, won the 2026 PCI Big Beam Contest.

The winning team included Logan Bonner and Conrad Kang. Their faculty advisor was Gregory Lucier, and PCI producer member Tindall Corp. provided project support.

“When I arrived as a nonthesis master’s student a year ago, I never envisioned myself actually designing and testing a real beam,” Bonner says. “The competition provided an opportunity to load test everything I had learned in the classroom about structural design and precast, prestressed concrete. Also, knowing that our beam would be compared to other teams pushed me to approach the problem from a competitive mindset and think creatively through every step of this project.”

“The lessons I have learned from Tindall’s engineers and our faculty advisors has been a great introduction to precast concrete, especially for its application of concepts learned through coursework,” Kang says.

Teams of students and a faculty advisor design, build, and test a 20 ft (6.1 m) precast, prestressed concrete beam. Local PCI-certified precast concrete producers mentor and fabricate the beams for the teams. Entries are judged on a variety of criteria, including the beam’s load-resisting performance in tests that simulate real-life conditions that structural building and infrastructure components must endure to ensure life safety, as well as the quality of their analysis and reports and a video overview of their project.

“Congratulations to the outstanding students and educators whose creativity, technical skill, and dedication earned them top honors in the 2026 PCI Big Beam Competition,” says Bob Risser, PCI president and CEO. “The innovative solutions showcased by this year’s winners demonstrate our industry’s bright future and highlight the value of introducing students to engineering, design, and construction through engaging, hands-on learning experiences.”

2028 LEADERSHIP PCI CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> PCI’s flagship leadership program, established on the occasion of PCI’s 50th anniversary, is opening the nomination period for the next Leadership PCI (LPCI) class.

Each year, a class of outstanding individuals is selected from candidate nominations submitted by PCI members. Each new class begins at the PCI Committee Days, during which class members take part in program initiation, committee meetings, and other conference activities. In the subsequent year, class members are committed to a program of development activities, culminating in a graduation ceremony at the subsequent Committee Days.

The next class starts in September 2027 at PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference in Rosemont, Ill., and graduates at the 2028 PCI Committee Days in Oklahoma City, Okla. In between, there are mandatory in-person and virtual

meetings. Candidates should be employed in the industry for three continuous years and have exhibited job performance and other traits consistent with a high-potential employee.

The program fee is \$3000 per participant. By submitting a nomination form, the sponsor agrees to be billed the program fee, should their candidate be accepted into the program, along with any travel and hotel costs for in-person events. The program fee is due before the 2027 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference.

Any PCI member can submit a candidate for Leadership PCI by completing and submitting an application, available at pci.org/lpci. Applications are due by December 31, 2026, and both a sponsor and participant application must be submitted to be considered for the program. For more information about the LPCI program, contact lpcci@pci.org.

ALP Supply and *Aspire* magazine sponsored the 2026 PCI Big Beam competition.

Overall Winner: North Carolina State University

Student team: Logan Bonner and Conrad Kang

Faculty advisor: Gregory Lucier

PCI producer: Tindall Corp.

Keith Kaufman Award for Best Report: Northern Arizona University

Student team: Kaylynn Calvin, David Lucas Macaraeg, Lander Porter, and Jonah Simminger

Faculty advisor: Ben Dymond

PCI producer: Tpac, an EnCon Company

Best Video: Lehigh University

Student team: Walter Fried, Samantha McEvoy, and Jackie Sobota

Faculty advisor: Clay Naito

PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products

The remaining finishers are listed in alphabetical order. All teams received awards of \$1000 and \$1250.

Iowa State University

Student team: Will Cieniawski, Michael Heidt, Eric Oltjenbruns, Slade Sibenaller, and Nate Willey

Faculty advisor: Hartanto Wibowo

PCI producer: Rinker Materials

Montana State University: Team Stressed Out

Student team: Will Kelly, Allee Meyer, Thomas Miller, Gavin Mills, Kyle Rockwell, Luke Shave, Hudson Smith, and Noah Stimac

Faculty advisor: Mike Berry

PCI producer: Missoula Concrete Construction

Montana State University: Team Bridgerators

Student team: Axel Barth, Neil Daily, Matthew Fisher, Ciara Hellmann, Konnor Johnston, Tony Losi, Ander Streuli, Shawn Visser, and Anika Witsoe

Faculty advisor: Mike Berry

PCI producer: Missoula Concrete Construction

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Student team: Ahmad Afzali, Mohammad Afzali, Connor Mattalian, Stanley Mejia, Sayed Rahimi, Kaylin Rodriguez, and Shirley Zeas-Barrera

Faculty advisor: Mohamed Mahgoub

PCI producer: Jersey Precast

Oregon State University

Student team: Eric Chen, Emily Dahbura, Andrew Halsey, Micah Kallod, and Stephanie Serrano

Faculty advisor: Tanarat Potisuk

PCI producer: Knife River Prestress

University of British Columbia

Student team: Cole Berube, Devin Boyce, Tatum Ellwood, Deniz Eroğlu, Jack Gaehring, and Noah Kaiser

Faculty advisor: Lisa Tobber

PCI producer: Rapid-Span Structures Limited Partnership

University of Washington Tacoma

Student team: Daniel Berton, Ethan Darling, and Drevor Yambao

Faculty advisor: Nara Almeida

PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corp.

University of Western Ontario

Student team: Malcom Ahsan, Laura Isabel Kalab, Timothy Kerkhoff, and Amer Sabsabi

Faculty advisor: Maged A. Youssef

PCI producer: Stubbe's Precast

2027 DESIGN PRECAST COMPETITION CALL FOR ENTRIES

>> The PCI Student Education Committee invites entries from students and faculty advisors to participate in PCI's Design Precast Competition. Inspired by the Big Beam Contest, this program challenges students to explore innovative uses of architectural precast concrete enclosure systems in structural, sustainable, and artistic ways.

The PCI Design Precast Competition provides all of the technical criteria for the competition, so the focus is on aesthetic design solutions that conform to the fictitious owners' design needs and precast concrete production processes. Up

to three students may present their designs in the form of elevations and three-dimensional building information modeling. Students are encouraged to work with a local PCI-certified producer to learn about the design assist method, the precast concrete production process, and the colors and textures needed to complete the design.

Students should submit applications at pci.org/archcomp by May 21, 2027. Awards will be presented in February 2028 at the PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Columbus, Ohio.

Sennour takes home Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award

Larbi Sennour is the 2026 recipient of the Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award, which recognizes a professional engineer who has made significant contributions to PCI, the precast concrete industry, and the engineering community.

Sennour has been the president of CEG International since 2001. After earning a PhD in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, he began his precast concrete career as an associate with CEG in 1995. He then worked as a vice president at Precast Technical Assistance Corp. and vice president of sales and engineering for Raider Precast Concrete Inc. before rejoining CEG as president.

Sennour has been a PCI member for more than 20 years. He is a member and past chair of the Technical Activities Council, previously served as chair of the Connection Details Committee and the Concrete Materials Technology Committee, and was the vice chair of the Industry Handbook Committee for the eighth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. In 2009, Sennour was named a Fellow of PCI.

In addition to his activities with PCI, Sennour volunteers with the American Concrete Institute and *fib* (International Federation for Structural Concrete). He is also a past member of ACI-PCI Committee 319, Precast Structural Concrete Code; past chair of ACI 550, Precast Concrete Structures; and a member of both the *fib* Presidium and *fib* Commission 6, Prefabrication.

Sennour was presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.



Larbi Sennour

Wolff named recipient of T. Henry Clark Award

Mike Wolff was presented with the 2026 T. Henry Clark Award in September at PCI's awards luncheon during PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex. The T. Henry Clark Award is given to an individual, group of individuals, or a firm that has delivered a resource that improves or enhances the quality of precast and precast, prestressed concrete products or processes. T. Henry Clark was an advocate for quality and quality processes. This award recognizes those who create or promote quality in a way that would have made Clark proud.



Mike Wolff

Wolff is the vice president of operations for Basin Precast in Sidney, Mont., which has become a PCI-certified producer under his guidance. He previously worked for Mid-States Concrete Industries, a PCI-certified producer and erector, in South Beloit, Ill.

Wolff has been a PCI member for more than two decades and has been an active committee member throughout his tenure. Among his many committee appointments, he has served as chair of the QA Supplier Committee, Plant Certification Committee, and Safeguarding Impartiality Committee. He has also served as member, vice chair, and chair of the Quality Activities Council (QAC). He is presently the vice chair of the Tolerances Committee and a consulting member of QAC while serving on nine other PCI committees.

Wolff is also a PCI-certified field auditor and PCI-certified company auditor. Each year, he typically conducts about 20 PCI company audits in support of PCI's certified erector program.

Wolff is the secretary/treasurer of the 2026 PCI Board of Directors Executive Committee. He was named a PCI Fellow in 2023.

Cancer center wins Sidney Freedman Award

The Irma and Norman Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami Beach, Fla., has been honored with PCI's 2026 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. The annual award recognizes PCI-certified plants for unique solutions and excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast concrete and glass-fiber-reinforced concrete structures and individual components.

The six-story, 220,000 ft² Braman Cancer Center sets a new standard in precast concrete design, production, and installation. The facade features undulating precast concrete spandrels that encircle the entire structure. The project's complexity is evident in the curved, compound, tilted, and skewed panel angles and the custom-fabricated, faceted window system that lets natural light fill the facility.

The precast concrete manufacturer and the design team collaborated to establish component parameters, and the designers used algorithm-based computational software to generate iterative designs. This technology-guided approach allowed the project stakeholders to visualize how the manufacturing parameters affected the design while at the same time improving productivity throughout the production and erection stages.

The center is located in an area vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding. The precast concrete facade provides a resilient structure to withstand extreme weather occurrences. Precast concrete provided the necessary flexibility and efficiency to achieve the project's innovative design and functional goals.

The award is named after Sidney Freedman, retired PCI director of architectural systems, who was a leading voice in precast concrete architectural design for more than 43 years.

Kennesaw State University wins PCI Design Precast

The Kennesaw State University team of Ashely Borgman, Ines Konji, and Asma Nadir was named the overall winner of the 2026 PCI Design Precast competition. Their winning design, the Folded Frame contemporary art museum, embraces the site's artistic and industrial identity by exploring how precast concrete can serve as an efficient building system and an expressive architectural language that shapes light, atmosphere, and human experience.

In this competition, each team was to design a museum focused on a specific theme or topic of interest in a location aligned with that theme or topic. In PCI Design Precast, teams of two or three students present their designs in the form of elevations and three-dimensional building information modeling. Students are encouraged to work with a local PCI-certified

precast concrete producer to learn about design-assist, precast concrete production, and the colors and textures needed to complete the design.

"Our main central concept of this project was to show how precast concrete can be both structurally efficient and aesthetically compelling," Nadir says. "Rather than using precast concrete as a flat enclosure material, the building transforms it as a folded architectural system that introduces rhythm, shadow, depth, and spatial identity."

The winning team will present the winning design in February at the 2027 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The second-place team from Lehigh University included Katie Bui and Samantha McEvoy. The third-place team from Kennesaw State University included Dulce Hernandez, Connor Johnson, and Joanna Lin.

The 2027 PCI Design Precast Competition is now open. Visit pci.org/archcomp for more information.

The Irma and Norman Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami Beach, Fla., has been honored with PCI's 2026 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award.



PCI Design Handbook recognized with Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit

Members of the PCI Industry Handbook Committee, which authored the ninth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*, received the 2025 Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit Award, which recognizes a PCI-published document judged to be technically outstanding and worthy of special commendation.

The *PCI Design Handbook* is PCI's flagship publication and the premier resource for precast and prestressed concrete design. For more than six years, between 2018 and 2025, dozens of industry subject matter experts contributed to the rigorous development process for the handbook's 15 chapters. At the time of publication, the roster included 26 voting members, 12 consulting members, and 19 Blue Ribbon Review Committee members.

PCI Industry Handbook Committee members were Perry Schram, chair; Michael Owings, vice chair and chapter chair; Brian Barngrover, secretary; Mary Ann Griggas-Smith, Technical Activities Council liaison and chapter chair; Sameh Badie; Sergio Breña; Matthew Cooper, chapter chair; Martin Cuadra; Sameh Elashri, chapter chair; Chris Kercksmar, chapter chair; David Larsen, chapter chair; Mustafa Mashal; Spring McEwen; Alex Mihaylov, chapter chair; Jon Mohle; Collin Moriarty; Harry Nash; Nathan Niebauer; Andrew Osborn, chapter chair; Ali Shrih; Roksana Taghizadeh Daloui, chapter chair; Joseph Tuttle, chapter chair; Eric Van Duyne; Catherine Warfel, chapter chair; Cameron West; and Heidi R. Ziemann. Consulting members were Suzanne Aultman; AJ Baysek; Jared Brewe; Ned Cleland; Tim Cullen, chapter chair; Harry Gleich; Robert Grosz; Barry McKinley; Steven Peterson; Timothy Salmons; Peter Troiani; and Helmuth Wilden.

The Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit Award was established in 2006. Martin pioneered the development of technical information for plant-cast, precast concrete, and served as the technical editor of the first three editions of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. The PCI Technical Activities Council presents the Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit Award to a PCI-published docu-



ment judged to be technically outstanding and most worthy of special commendation for its merit as a contribution to the advancement of precast and prestressed concrete. The award was presented in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

PCI Marketing Individual Achievement Award goes to Ward

Terri Ward is the recipient of the 2026 PCI Marketing Individual Achievement Award. The PCI Marketing Individual Achievement Award is given to visionaries and creators who shape the marketing of the precast concrete industry. This award celebrates those whose tireless dedication and novel contributions have positively contributed to our industry's marketing evolution.



Terri Ward

Ward is the director of marketing for Metromont. Under her leadership, the Metromont marketing team has significantly improved the company's social media presence, produced exemplary project profiles and presentations, and used digital technologies to facilitate access to marketing materials.

Ward has been a leading voice in PCI's marketing initiatives and a member of the Marketing Council, the Marketing Communications Committee, and the Ascent Advisory Committee since 2019. She served as Marketing Communications Committee chair from 2022 to 2025, was Marketing Council vice chair in 2024/2025, and became chair of the *Ascent* Advisory Committee in 2026. She is also a member of the Workforce Development Committee and Sustainability Marketing Committee and was the 2025/2026 marketing chair for Georgia/Carolinas PCI.

Ward's many contributions to PCI include her leadership to enhance the PCI website and the How Precast Builds website. She has also contributed to developing the Marketing and Sales School 2.0 and the ongoing evolution of PCI's Design Awards Program.

As chair of the Georgia/Carolinas PCI Marketing Committee, Ward spearheaded multiple initiatives, including exhibiting at the Georgia School Boards Association and establishing an Architectural Research Centers Consortium sponsorship with Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. She has been and continues to be a role model and mentor for other Georgia/Carolinas PCI leaders.

Ward was presented with the award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

Wells receives PCI Marketing Company Achievement Award

Wells is the recipient of the 2026 PCI Marketing Company Achievement Award. The PCI Marketing Company Achievement Award celebrates outstanding achievements and innovations transforming the marketing sector in the precast concrete industry. This award recognizes companies that exemplify excellence in year-over-year marketing strategies and campaign-focused initiatives, elevating the industry's standards and driving meaningful change.

Wells has been part of the precast concrete industry for 75 years and a PCI member for 66 years. In late 2024, following the acquisition of GATE Precast, Wells launched a comprehensive brand transformation to unify the company's identity across all regions and business units. Since then, Wells' marketing efforts have focused on strengthening digital assets, unifying the brand, and sharing project stories that resonate with clients and communities.

Wells' website strategy prioritizes improving search visibility and providing content tailored to targeted audiences. From 2023 to 2025, traffic to the Wells website grew by more than 180% and page views more than doubled. Wells recently launched a new website (<https://wells.build/>) to highlight the company's value in every phase of the building life cycle.

Wells also prioritizes social media growth across all platforms. The marketing team focuses on publishing social media content that keeps Wells visible and relevant to key audiences, leading to a follower count increase from 13,000 in 2023 to more than 20,000 today.

Wells' external public relations program secures coverage in leading industry publications, and the marketing team promotes Wells' many achievements by submitting numerous projects for industry awards, such as the PCI Design Awards. Wells also serves the architecture, engineering, and construction community as an educational leader through webinars on precast concrete building solutions.

Wells was presented with this award in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

Exceptional Precast Practices participants recognized at PCI Committee Days

Eleven PCI-certified member plants were recognized for their commitment to continuous quality improvement through participation in PCI's Exceptional Precast Practices (EPP) program in September at PCI's awards luncheon during PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

The EPP program is a voluntary, continuous quality improvement tool developed specifically for the precast con-

crete industry by PCI's Quality Enhancement Committee. The program offers both a road map for improvement efforts and milestones for measuring progress.

A plant fills out the self-assessment survey for each of the seven modules: productivity, personnel, safety, field operations, sales and marketing, sustainable plant, and concrete. This process allows the plant not only to benchmark where they are today but also to review programs of proven worth that other PCI plants find valuable.

That process allows plant personnel to decide on a road map for the future. If this process is managed well, that road map becomes the goals and programs for improvement and it provides the basis for accountability for achievement. The plant's benchmark score allows plant personnel to actually measure progress from year to year. There is no minimum score required. This is not a contest. Scores will not be published. There is no overall winner. All participating plants are provided with an annual certificate of participation and are recognized at the PCI Committee Days.

The 2026 participating plants were Basin Precast Inc. in Sidney, Mont.; International Concrete Products in Germantown, Wis.; International Precast Solutions LLC in River Rouge, Mich.; Mid-States Concrete Industries LLC in South Beloit, Ill.; Nitterhouse Concrete Products Inc. in Chambersburg, Pa.; Northeast Prestressed Products LLC in Pottsville, Pa.; Prestressed Casting Co.—Ozark plant in Ozark, Mo.; Prestressed Casting Co.—Springfield plant in Springfield, Mo.; Rinker Materials Billings in Billings, Mont.; Rinker Materials Elk River in Elk River, Minn.; and Rinker Materials Menoken in Menoken, N.Dak.

Leadership PCI kicks off 2027 class at Committee Days

The Leadership PCI Steering Committee has selected the incoming 2027 Leadership PCI (LPCI) cohort. The 2027 class kicked off with a meeting in September at the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex.

This year's class includes Sarmed Al Jalaly of AG&E; Thomas Ardito of Tindall Corporation, South Carolina Division; Louis Bedor III of Dailey Precast LLC; Dalton Blanchard of FINFROCK; McKenzie Brooks of EnCon United; Austin Buckels of Alfred Miller Contracting; Osvaldo Callado of County Prestress & Precast; John Creath of Tindall Corporation, Virginia Division; Ninad Deshpande of Coreslab Structures, Indianapolis; David Gee of e.Construct USA LLC; Benjamin Grimsley of Master Builders Solutions; Nicholas Hollister of DRL Drafting & Design; Joshua Horstman of Fabcon Precast; Colten McCampbell of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; Kurtis Moeller of Enterprise Precast Concrete; Kevin Moore of The Consulting Engineers Group Inc. (IL); Matthew Rahn of ATMI Precast; Sadie Schroeder of Beton-Stahl Inc.; Raed Tawadrous of e.Construct USA LLC; Greg

Whissell of FINFROCK; Justin Whiteman of High Concrete Group; and Tyler Yero of The Consulting Engineers Group Inc. (TX).

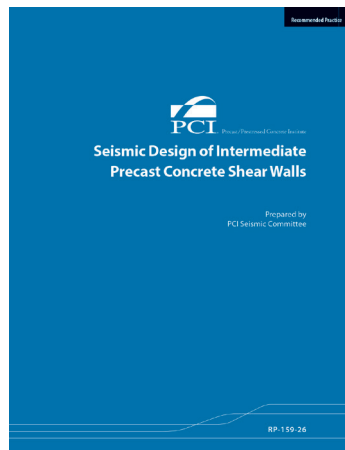
Participants in LPCI attend a spring leadership boot camp, PCI Convention at The Precast Show, and a winter leadership boot camp and graduate at the 2027 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference in Rosemont, Ill.

PCI releases new seismic design ebook in bookstore

PCI has released *Seismic Design of Intermediate Precast Concrete Shear Walls* as an ebook, available starting in August.

Intermediate precast concrete shear walls offer a resilient and efficient solution for resisting seismic forces in precast concrete buildings, and this publication provides practical guidance for the analysis, design, detailing, and connection design of intermediate precast concrete shear walls. Additional guidance is provided for the design of wall assemblies, wall piers, prestressed, and insulated precast concrete wall panels.

This publication is available at no cost for PCI members. To access a copy, visit the PCI Bookstore at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/PCI/Bookstore/All.aspx?>



PCI offers upcoming continuing education opportunities

PCI is offering several upcoming educational opportunities for professionals seeking continuing education credits, including a review of the new ANSI/PCI 142-24 *Specification for Precast, Prestressed Concrete Piles*; a course on wind and seismic loads for precast concrete structures; and an overview of the new ACI/PCI CODE-319-25 for structural precast concrete.

On October 29, Timothy Wayne Mays will present an overview of ANSI/PCI 142-24, *Specification for Precast, Prestressed Concrete Piles*. The webinar will cover the development and key provisions of the new specification and is worth

1 professional development hour (PDH). To register for this webinar, visit <https://www.pci.org/PCI/News-Events/Event-Category?type=web>.

The Lateral Loads online academy will run from November 4 through January 27, covering wind and seismic loads, lateral force-resisting systems, and diaphragms in precast concrete structures. The nine-session course offers 13.5 PDHs and will be presented by Ismail Kuzucu, David Nasser, and Chris Kercsmar. To register for this course, visit https://www.pci.org/PCI/Education/PCI_Online_Academy_-_Advancing_Professionals.aspx.

On December 8, Edith Gallandorm, PCI director of codes and standards, and Jared Brewe of S. K. Ghosh Associates will present an overview of ACI/PCI CODE-319-25, *Structural Precast Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary*. The 90-minute webinar will highlight the new code's organization, scope, and requirements for structural precast concrete and is worth 1.5 PDHs. To register for this webinar, visit <https://www.pci.org/PCI/News-Events/Event-Category?type=web>.

PCI Foundation names Peterson new chair

The PCI Foundation has named Nancy Peterson its new chair. Peterson is a project manager at EnCon United in Denver, Colo. She was named a PCI Fellow in 2025 and is a consulting member of the PCI Student Education Committee.

In September, during the 2026 PCI Committee Days in San Antonio, Tex., the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees chair, Monty Oehrlein, concluded his term.



Nancy Peterson

2026 PCI Precast Days celebrated in October

PCI and manufacturers from all over celebrated and showcased the precast concrete industry during the 2026 Precast Days, October 5 through 16.

Precast concrete producer members were invited to open their doors and host a local Precast Days event that is customized to their company and its values and products.

Activities included plant tours, education sessions, and social and digital media promotion. Social media is an effective way to raise awareness for your PCI Precast Days event. The official hashtags were #PCIPrecastDays, #HowPrecastBuilds, #PrecastProtectsLife, and #PrecastDays.

PCI CALENDAR

Events

PCI event details are subject to change. For the most current information, visit <https://www.pci.org/events>.

2027 Georgia/Carolinas PCI Winter Meeting SpringHill Suites Greenville Downtown, Greenville, S.C.	January 14-15, 2027
2027 PCI West Annual Board Meeting Las Vegas, Nev.	January 20, 2027
2027 PCI Convention at The Precast Show Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek, Salt Lake City, Utah	February 1-5, 2027
Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Winter Meeting Aloft Lake Nona, Orlando, Fla.	February 18-19, 2027
2027 PCI Mid-Atlantic Winter Meeting The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, Hanover Md.	March 4-5, 2027
PCI Central Region 2027 Spring Meeting Nashville, Tenn.	April 20-22, 2027
PCI Gulf South Annual Meeting Fairhope, Ala.	April 28-29, 2027
2027 PCI West Summer Board Meeting Woodland, Calif.	May 26, 2027
2027 PCI Summer Board of Directors Meeting Hyatt House Naples on Fifth Avenue, Naples, Fla.	June 7-11, 2027
2027 Georgia/Carolinas PCI Annual Meeting The Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.	June 16-18, 2027
2027 Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Summer Meeting Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, Fla.	July 22-25, 2027
PCI of Illinois and Wisconsin Mid-Summer Event Lake Geneva Lake Geneva, Wis.	July 28-29, 2027
2027 PCI Mid-Atlantic Summer Membership Meeting Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, Pa.	August 12-13, 2027

PCI personnel training and certification schools

PCI School event details are subject to change. If you have any questions about the quality control school schedule or need help completing registration, please contact PCI's continuing education coordinator at education@pci.org. Register at https://www.pci.org/qc_schools.

Levels I and II	November 16-19, 2026 January 11-14, 2027 April 5-8, 2027 June 21-24, 2027	online online online online
Level III	December 14-17, 2026 March 15-18, 2027 July 12-15, 2027	online online online
Certified Field Auditor	April 26-29, 2027	online
Certified Company Auditor	April 30, 2027	online