

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The power of partnerships

I'm not a big fan of going it alone. Of course, PCI will take whatever actions are necessary to advance the industry and our members' interests, but whenever possible, I think it's best to seek out partners.

Not only do you get the added support of other groups, it also leverages our members' resources. We've seen the power of this leverage in many areas—most frequently in research projects. PCI resources have been leveraged by a factor of three, four, five, or even more to accomplish goals shared with other industry groups or partners. One such partnership that has been enormously successful is the team PCI put together to develop the Diaphragm Seismic Design Methodology. Partnering with the Charles Pankow Foundation; the National Science Foundation; the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation; Lehigh University; the University of Arizona; and the University of California, San Diego, the team researched and developed technology that will improve the competitiveness of precast concrete structures in seismic areas. The PCI team was recently honored with the American Society of Civil Engineers' prestigious Charles Pankow Award for Innovation.

Please send
correspondence to
journal@pci.org or Precast/
Prestressed Concrete
Institute, c/o *PCI Journal*,
200 West Adams Street,
Suite 2100, Chicago, IL
60606.

In this "Bridges" issue of *PCI Journal*, we celebrate an important partnership with PCI and its members: our relationship with the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and individual departments of transportation. And there is no better illustration of this partnership than the regular meeting of the AASHTO T-10 Bridge Committee in conjunction with the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference and the PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference.

We are proud to report that at the recent PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn., there were 58 attendees from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the AASHTO community, representing 38 separate state departments of transportation. This close collaboration allows PCI to work with the public sector to advance precast/prestressed concrete technology in transportation, creating ever-increasing safety and value for the nation's travelers and taxpayers.

In Nashville, PCI celebrated another partnership by successfully holding the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in conjunction with The Precast Show for the first time. PCI producer members and exhibitors alike were enthusiastic in their support of the event. We received positive feedback on the size of the show and the size and enthusiasm of the crowd on the show floor.

These are just a few of PCI's most successful partnerships. As we continue to move forward with providing information and programs that are valuable to PCI members, we'll continue to seek out partnerships that advance our industry and enhance member value. ■



Bob Risser
PCI President and CEO