

### PCI names Grafton director of operations services

PCI has named R. Jon Grafton its new director of operations services. He started December 1, 2017, and is staff liaison to the Business Performance Council, where he will lead productivity, erect, and safety efforts, and assist on transportation-related activities.

Grafton has more than 38 years of experience in the precast, prestressed concrete industry, most recently as manager of business development for Oldcastle Precast throughout the Western United States. While there, Grafton worked as the manager of business development for design-build projects using precast, prestressed concrete and played a part in identifying and developing new products that could be marketed through the company's more than 90 plants throughout the United States and Canada. Grafton has also been employed by Armtech (formerly Conforce Structures), another PCI producer member.

A former member of several PCI committees, Grafton most recently served as chair of the Transportation Activities Council and on the PCI Board of Directors. He is a licensed professional engineer and received a BSc in civil engineering from the University of Calgary in Canada.



Jon Grafton

### Stanton new managing director of market development

Amy Stanton joined the PCI staff as managing director of market development January 1, 2018. She started working with PCI as a marketing and communications consultant last year in the areas of communications and public relations.

In her new role, Stanton will oversee the PCI marketing effort, working directly with the Marketing Council and its subcommittees, managing and directing the marketing staff, and working closely with the PCI regional affiliates to help maximize promotion and marketing efforts. She also will lead PCI's efforts to incorporate social media



Amy Stanton

tools into marketing and communications at both the national and regional levels.

Stanton comes to PCI with a wealth of marketing, communications, and lobbying experience in the construction and infrastructure arena, both as a consultant to the private sector and in the association space. Most recently, she was owner of Azure Strategies, a full-service marketing, communications, and management consultancy. Stanton also previously taught advertising and communications at both Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., and Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Stanton has an MA in advertising and public relations and has completed extensive doctoral-level coursework and research in marketing, consumer psychology, advertising, and public relations at Michigan State University. She earned a BS in political science and journalism from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

### Ray named controller at PCI

Kelly Ray started as PCI's new controller December 1, 2017. Ray oversees the finance area, and her background in system implementations and process improvement is key as PCI develops its new strategic plan.

Ray's experience includes working for global companies as well as start-ups as consultant, accounting manager, and chief financial officer.

She has a BS in business and international business from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.



Kelly Ray

### Lorenz to chair ASTM sustainability committee

Emily Lorenz, PCI's director of sustainability and publications, has been nominated as the chair of ASTM International Committee E60, Sustainability. Beginning January 1, 2018, Lorenz will serve a two-year term as chair of the committee. Committee E60 is one of ASTM International's largest committees.



Emily Lorenz

## New precast installer associate membership category created

PCI has created a new membership category for precast concrete installers. All noncertified precast concrete installers qualify for this service associate membership category. This membership category is valid for a term of 24 months. Precast concrete installers must hold certification status for one year to qualify for the PCI certified erector membership.

Precast installer memberships will transfer to the certified erector membership once qualifications are met. The purpose of this policy revision is to facilitate recognition of certified erectors in the marketplace. This revision will help distinguish and identify certified erectors for PCI-specified erection projects.

## PCI Foundation Professors Seminar to be in St. Louis

This year's PCI Foundation Professors Seminar will be May 22–24 at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. The PCI Foundation offers a program for architecture professors who wish to learn more about precast concrete design and how it can be taught in the university classroom or studio.

The program will be a three-day intensive workshop that will include instruction from college professors already teaching precast concrete as part of grants received from the PCI Foundation, precast concrete industry experts, and architects with precast concrete design experience.

Professors will learn the basics of precast concrete design for buildings and will be given tools that will assist them in teaching precast concrete concepts to students. In addition, the topics of integrated programs and partner relationships will be covered. At the end of the program, professors will receive Precast in a Box, a resource designed by PCI to offer professors a selection of teaching tools. During the field day, attendees will visit a precast concrete fabricator, a Denver architecture firm, and several precast concrete projects.

Content provided to professors interested in teaching precast concrete design will include videos, books, case studies, and other useful materials. Many of the PCI Foundation–sponsored programs have offered integrated courses with either engineering or construction management departments. If professors from either of those departments wish to attend, it can be arranged.

The program is free to qualified attendees. For more information, contact Marty McIntyre, executive director of the PCI Foundation, at (708) 386-3715 or [info@pci-foundation.org](mailto:info@pci-foundation.org).

## PCI members tour 3-D printing operation as part of enclosure research project at ORNL

In January and February, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Knoxville, Tenn., and Gate Precast in Winchester, Ky., opened their facilities to 13 PCI members to see firsthand their three-dimensional (3-D) printing and machining operation, how the molds are being used in the plant, and the quality of the finished product.

PCI has been working with ORNL on enclosure research with the U.S. Department of Energy. One part of their enclosure project involves 3-D printing of molds to reduce forming costs and address the potential lack of skilled carpenters. In the first year of the project, a 1 ft (300 mm) long section of a complicated cornice was printed and more than 30 casts were made in the mold without degradation. ORNL wanted something more complex for the second year, and Gate Precast stepped forward with a window panel project in New York, N.Y. ORNL is printing and machining some of the molds that are being used on that project. Additive Engineering Solutions in Akron, Ohio, is also printing and machining a number of molds for the project. After only a year and a half, the process has progressed from concept to commercialization.

ORNL is the largest U.S. Department of Energy science and energy laboratory, conducting basic and applied research to deliver transformative solutions to compelling problems in energy and security.

## PCI Foundation schools make best-of list in *CEO World*

Six PCI Foundation grant recipients have made a list of the top 25 schools to study architecture and interior design. *CEO World Magazine* recently put out its rankings, and among them were PCI Foundation grant recipients Clemson University, Georgia Tech, Rhode Island School of Design, University of Michigan, University of Southern California, and Washington University.

The magazine's rankings are based on four major metrics of quality and reputation. The overall score is the sum of reputation and influence, recruiter feedback, admission eligibility, and specialization.



Gate Precast's Kissimmee, Fla., plant won the Best Event Photo award with its roast pig in a hard hat. Courtesy of Gate Precast.

## PCI Foundation announces barbecue contest winners

The PCI Foundation hosted a barbecue contest to raise money this past September and October. Tindall Corp.'s plant in Moss Point, Miss., was declared the winner of the 2017 PCI Foundation BBQ Competition, raising \$13,708.52 to support new precast concrete education programs for schools of architecture, engineering, and construction management.

Valeri Wager of Tindall oversaw the event—which included southern barbecue chicken, pulled pork, and brisket on the menu—for 105 people, including both employees and subcontractors, a raffle for vacation time and other prizes, and a vendor fair of subcontractors. This was the first time the plant entered the competition.

A plaque honoring the winning plant was awarded during the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in February in Denver, Colo., and the plant received a new commercial-grade grill from competition sponsor GCP Applied Technologies.



Pete Gemmill of Gate Precast's Hillsboro, Tex., plant tries his hand at the dunk tank during the plant's 2017 PCI Foundation BBQ. Courtesy of Gate Precast Hillsboro.

In 2017, 17 events took place for the competition, raising more than \$57,000 for the PCI Foundation and feeding more than 1800 people. Each event was unique in that it was planned and executed for the individual plant, but all with the goals of raising funds for the PCI Foundation and raising industry awareness about the work done by the PCI Foundation. Many plants used the event as a way to entertain customers, while others focused on employees and family.

Following are other prizes awarded in the 2017 PCI Foundation BBQ Competition:

- **Family and Friends Award (highest number of employees inviting family and friends):** Gate Precast of Hillsboro, Tex.
- **Student Attendees:** Wells Concrete of Albany, Minn.
- **Most Unusual Menu Item:** Gate Precast of Hillsboro, Tex., with rattlesnake
- **Most Unusual Fundraiser:** Gate Precast of Winchester, Ky., with its third annual bow-shooting competition
- **Best Team Building:** Gate Precast of Kissimmee, Fla., with "I Survived the PCI Foundation BBQ" T-shirts for everyone
- **Best Event Photo:** Gate Precast of Kissimmee, Fla., with a roast pig with a hard hat
- **100% Award (100% of Employees Attended):** Gate Precast of Hillsboro, Tex.; Pearland, Tex.; and Winchester, Ky., and Wells Concrete of Albany, Minn.; Grand Forks, N.Dak.; Maple Grove, Minn.; and Rosemount, Minn.

Many companies used the event for team building and held events such as a tailgate party, a brisket competition, a vendor fair, and raffles for vacation time for employees. Another favorite fundraiser for several events was the dunk tank.

## Free Resources section added to PCI website

In a unanimous decision, the PCI Board of Directors voted to offer many of its titles for free in electronic format. The decision, lauded by PCI's chapter executives, brings to market free information that showcases the many benefits of designing and building with precast, prestressed concrete structures. You can visit the PCI Bookstore or the Design Resources sections of [www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org) to find a link to Free Resources. If you want a printed copy of any of the free downloads, you only have to pay for printing, plus shipping and handling.

Some additional titles are free as a member benefit. Plant-specific operational manuals, such as those for quality control, erection safety, and safety and loss prevention are free to PCI producer members. The online PCI Bookstore recognizes your member type and reprices your items. Technical design documents and training texts are still offered for sale with at least a 50% discount to any PCI member.

## PCI FOUNDATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



**Marty McIntyre**  
PCI Foundation  
Executive Director

As the PCI Foundation has grown and developed, the programs we work with have grown right alongside us. In the beginning, the trustees saw how successful we could be using the design studio approach at schools of architecture to teach precast concrete and help integrate the material into more of the curriculum.

However, as more schools became involved, we found that each school has a unique approach to education and we can play a helpful role that caters to that school's needs. Although some of our programs are studios similar to the first program at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, most of what we do is to provide curriculum development grants. Nearly every industry and area of study we want to work with must develop and present new curriculum, whether it be as part of an architecture, bridge, real estate, or construction management program.

Since 2007, the PCI Foundation has focused on providing curriculum development grants to schools of architecture, engineering, and construction management. These grants allow professors to partner with local precast concrete fabricators, engineers, and architects to create unique content that cultivates productive relationships between the precast concrete industry and the academic community, develops high-potential students for production careers within the precast concrete industry, and facilitates including precast concrete information and technologies in university curricula.

So how does this work?

The first step is for the community to identify a need for new precast concrete curriculum. This may be done either by the school or by the precast concrete industry. Examples of needs that our grants have helped address are diverse; no two programs are exactly the same.

In some cases, the program is meant to educate future decision makers/customers of our products. This could be when your salespeople attend meetings with area architects and find themselves having to do basic precast concrete education because students have not learned the

basics of designing with our products prior to graduation. Even when the producer has stepped in and provided lectures and tours, it often isn't enough to give the in-depth knowledge that we would like our customers to have. Working with the school, we can create new curriculum that solves this issue.

In other cases, our industry may need to make direct hires from programs in a specific area. Making our industry understandable and forming connections with the students allow us to create relationships that will take the student beyond school and directly into our industry. Workforce development has been at the heart of several of the grants we have provided.

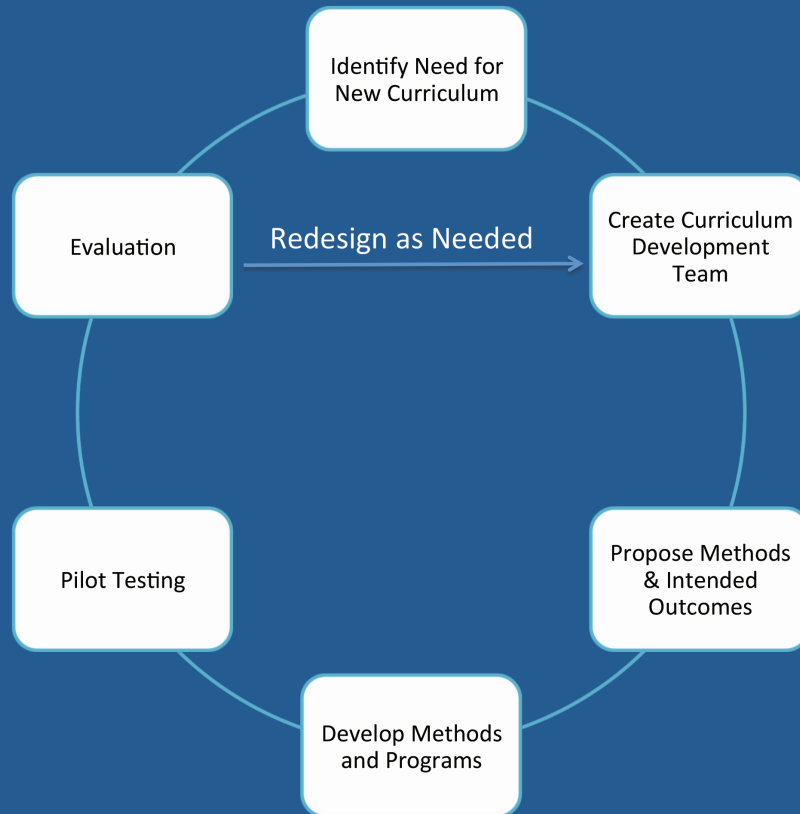
The PCI Foundation has also worked with several programs that focus more on precast concrete product fabrication, especially as it relates to digital fabrication. Some of this work will be the technology that our industry uses for the future, and we have seen interesting research come out of these programs.

Once the need is identified, the proposal team needs to put together its curriculum development team. Typically, this includes local industry partners, professors, and administrators. At times, this can also include engineers, contractors, developers, and others who can assist in meeting the needs that have been identified. The team will have a few leaders, and it should work together to ensure that the needs are being addressed and the team's skills are being put to good use.

The team looks at the needs and its strengths, and then it comes to the PCI Foundation to make a request for a grant. The PCI Foundation Trustees will look closely at the methods and the outcomes to ensure that the grant meets the PCI Foundation mission:

- Cultivate the relationship between the precast concrete industry and academic community.
- Develop and attract high-potential students to productive careers within the industry.
- Facilitate inclusion of precast concrete systems and technology in university curricula.
- Expose students to real-world design/construction experiences related to precast concrete.

# PCI F Curriculum Development Process



I personally place a lot of emphasis on the last of these items. When students have unique experiences, they tend to remember them and learn from them. Time and again when I survey students about their programs, they come back to the positive experiences and relationships they formed. It also works closely with the idea of experiential learning, which is a current focus on a number of college campuses.

If the proposal meets these requirements and the trustees approve it, the next step is taken.

The next challenge in the curriculum development process is selecting content that will meet the needs identified by the team. Most of this

work comes during this phase. Many of the programs include the following:

- case studies of precast concrete projects
- small mold and piece making
- building information modeling/computer work
- student research projects
- document development
- critiques with industry professionals
- plant and project tours
- industry lectures
- community outreach
- precast concrete design problems

## PCI CALENDAR

### Events

For the most current information on PCI and industry events, visit <http://www.pci.org/events>.  
For industry events, visit <http://www.pci.org/news/events>.

<b>PCI Gulf South Spring Meeting</b> Natchez, Miss.	April 24–25, 2018
<b>PCI Central Spring Event</b> St. Louis, Mo.	May 1–2, 2018
<b>PCI Northeast Spring Meeting</b> Lenox, Mass.	May 8–9, 2018
<b>PCI Midwest Membership Meeting</b> Minneapolis, Minn.	June 5–6, 2018
<b>PCI Summer Conference</b> New Orleans, La.	June 7–11, 2018
<b>PCI Georgia/Carolinas Annual Board and Membership Meeting</b> Hilton Head Island, S.C.	June 14–17, 2018
<b>PCI Gulf South Summer Meeting</b> Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Destin, Fla.	July 12–14, 2018
<b>PCI of Illinois &amp; Wisconsin Summer Meeting</b> Holiday Inn O'Hare Chicago, Chicago, Ill.	July 24–25, 2018
<b>Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Summer Convention</b> Clearwater, Fla.	August 9–12, 2018
<b>PCI Central Summer Event</b> Nashville, Tenn.	August 29–30, 2018
<b>PCI Northeast Annual Meeting</b> Old Saybrook, Conn.	September 12–13, 2018
<b>The Tour</b> Bloomington, Minn.	September 18–21, 2018
<b>PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference</b> Rosemont, Ill.	October 10–13, 2018
<b>PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in partnership with The Precast Show</b> Louisville, Ky.	February 26–March 2, 2019

## PCI personnel training and certification schools

If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI's education manager, Sherrie Nauden, at [snauden@pci.org](mailto:snauden@pci.org) or (312) 360-3215. Registration forms are available at <http://www.pci.org/schools>.

<b>Level I/II</b>	March 12–14, 2018 April 9–11, 2018	Salt Lake City, Utah Harrisburg, Pa.
<b>Level III</b>	March 14–17, 2018 March 27–30, 2018	Salt Lake City, Utah Orlando, Fla.

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