

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Successful by design

PCI Journal readers above a certain age may remember this famous phrase from John “Hannibal” Smith of the 1980s television program *The A-Team*. He was known for the catchphrase, “I love it when a plan comes together.” This phrase comes to mind as we start down the road of implementing the strategic plan adopted by the PCI Board of Directors in June. In the Design issue of *PCI Journal* last year, I outlined the board’s plan to conduct a strategic planning session, setting the agenda and priorities for the institute in the years ahead. In the last issue of the *PCI Journal* we were able to share the goals of the plan. (The PCI strategic plan is available in the Members Only section of PCI.org.)


Since then, the board was able to use the priorities in the plan to make decisions about staffing and expenditures for the current fiscal year 2018-2019 budget. Although some of the goals will be a number of years in the making, I’m pleased to report that things are already coming together, starting with aligning the PCI staff with key goals of the plan.

One baseline goal was to strengthen our information technology (IT) platforms, on which so much of the goals of the organization depend. To that end, I’m pleased to welcome Karen Boman to the PCI staff as our new business intelligence senior manager. Boman comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in IT services. In prior positions, Boman served as business analyst/association management system administrator and IT manager. In her new role, Boman will maintain PCI’s databases, provide ongoing programming support to PCI staff, and serve as the primary liaison to third-party providers and will report to PCI’s chief financial officer, Beth Taylor. This position was included in the approved budget and is in direct support of the baseline goal of having a robust IT platform from which to achieve our strategic goals.

Another key goal of the plan is to develop and implement a PCI Building Code for precast, prestressed concrete. The plan and budget identified the need for additional engineering staff to develop and maintain the 13 standards that have been identified to support the code. I’m happy to welcome Edith Smith to the PCI staff as codes and standards manager in direct support of our goal to develop a PCI Building Code. Smith is a registered professional engineer and comes to PCI with more than 20 years of precast, prestressed design experience, having worked with several PCI member firms during her career. She will largely be responsible for the Standards Committee and the work of several committees overseeing the development of PCI standards. Smith and technical staff have already outlined the schedule and documents leading up to *International Building Code* adoption of the PCI design specification in 2027.

We have also done some staff reorganization to deliver even better value to PCI members. Our education activities are now part of the technical department under the leadership of PCI’s technical services vice president, Roger Becker. To better integrate support and member activities, all finance, events, membership, and IT functions have been combined, reporting to Taylor.

We are excited about getting started on implementing the strategic plan, and these changes will help us better serve the members and the precast, prestressed concrete industry.

There is a lot of work ahead, but we will succeed if we stick together and remain committed. I hope you can join us in October at the PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference in Rosemont, Ill., where you’ll see the good plan coming together! 

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