

**Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship
2018 – 2019**

The PCI Transportation Activities Council and PCI Research and Development Council have selected a recipient of the Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship for the 2018-2019 academic year. This program connects professors and students with industry experts to advance research in bridge related precast concrete. It is a unique experience where both industry and academics benefit from the interaction. We especially thank all the producers who support universities proposing research ideas.

The student awarded the fellowship is:

Sandip Chhetri

University of Cincinnati

"Strand Lifting Loop Capacity in Precast Concrete Bridge Beams"

Advising Professor: Dr. Rachel Chicchi

Producer support: Concrete Technology Corporation
Precast Systems Engineering
Northeast Prestressed Products
Coreslab Structures (Indianapolis)



In his application, Sandip stated "Clear and safe guidelines are needed for the safe use of lifting loops in precast bridge girders and I hope to help ensure public safety through participation in the proposed work. I am really looking forward to the practical application of this research project in current erection practices and the achievement of results which will benefit the Civil Engineering community."

This fellowship was established in 2017 in memory of Dennis R. Mertz, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Delaware and one of the principal investigators who developed the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*.