

**Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship  
2019 – 2020**

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 2019-2020 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:

**Augusto M. Gil**

Michigan State University

*“Design Solutions for Enhancing Fire Resistance of Ultra-High Performance Precast Concrete Members”*

Advising Professor: Venkatesh Kodur

Producer support: Prestress Services Industries LLC, Columbus, Oh.

Additional support: Structural Technologies, Columbia, Md.

In his application, Augusto stated “I am strongly interested in advancing on the fire resistance of precast UHPC members. After earning my PhD degree, I would like to keep working in the promotion of precast/prestressed concrete use.”



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*.