

## **Solicitation for PCI Research Fellowship Applications for 2026**

The **Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute** Research and Development Council is pleased to announce the solicitation of applications for the Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowship and the Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship programs.

The fellowship awards consist of a grant of up to \$50,000 and are anticipated to advance the precast concrete industry through financial support of graduate students and research. Ancillary award benefits include engaging faculty in the precast concrete industry, introducing students to the benefits of precast concrete, and connecting the student, faculty, and PCI members for future networking opportunities.

Faculty researchers are invited to submit multiple applications; however, each award will be contingent on identification of a different student recipient. If the proposed research is part of a larger research project, the scope of work proposed in the fellowship application must be clearly delineated. The proposed research program should not be contingent upon any subsequent approval of funding for related research. At least one fellowship will be preferentially awarded to an untenured professor, if such an application is submitted, is on a relevant topic, and is of appropriate quality.

The Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowships are open to any research topic relevant to the precast concrete industry and which advance the state of the art of precast concrete design, fabrication, or construction. As shown in the research needs, projects need not be limited to structural components or materials testing. Innovative ideas to improve design, fabrication or erection are viewed very positively. In parallel is the potential for market impact as a result of the research.

The Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship is open to research topics relevant to design, materials, or construction of precast concrete bridges.

Attached are three documents regarding the Fellowship programs:

1. The fellowship program rules.
2. An example Review and Rating form used by the PCI Research and Development Council to evaluate applications. Please note the weighting of the five evaluation criteria.
3. A PCI research needs list summarizing topics of interest to the industry. This list is provided for guidance on topics of interest; applications need not be limited to these topics.

Please note the importance of industry support in the review criteria. Applicants must solicit support from a PCI producer member and/or professional member for their proposed research program. See the fellowship program rules for additional information. Final award deliberations will be significantly influenced by industry support, as the grading system encourages PCI member, project-specific collaboration. It is further suggested that a visit to a precast concrete plant to gather potential research topics would be helpful and potentially provide for a more relevant proposal. If any assistance is required in locating a potential industry partner, please contact PCI.

PCI anticipates awarding four Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowships and one Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship, if sufficient quantity and quality of applications are submitted. PCI is a non-profit organization and the fellowships funded under this program by the Institute do not cover indirect overhead costs. Therefore, the fellowship award should be exclusively used for supporting a graduate student and the research performance; indirect costs should be excluded from the budget.

Applications are due at PCI headquarters no later than **July 24, 2026**. Please submit electronically to:

[technical@pci.org](mailto:technical@pci.org)

The PCI Research and Development Council will select the awards during the fall meeting at PCI Committee Days, September 8-12, 2026. Awardees will be notified by November 1, 2026.

We are excited to be able to continue this program and encourage your participation.

Very truly yours,

**Jon Mohle**

Chair

PCI Research and Development Council