

PCI Announces 2013 Big Beam Contest Winners

The Student Education Judging Committee recently selected the winners of the Engineering Student Design Award, also known as the Big Beam Contest. First-place winners from each of the six PCI zones, along with the international entries, considered as zone 7, competed for the overall championship.

PCI's Student Education Committee (Dr. Richard Miller, Chair) organizes the Big Beam Contest, sponsored by SIKA Corp. The objective is for teams of students to fabricate and test a precast, prestressed concrete beam with the help of local precast concrete Producer Members. Prizes are awarded to the top three in each zone in consideration of efficient design, highest load capacity, and other categories.

The first-place winner in each zone enters the national competition. The overall winners and zonal results are listed below.

National Competition

First place: Lehigh University (Team 2); Lehigh, Pa. (Zone 5)

Faculty advisor: Clay J. Naito, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products LLC; Cressona, Pa. (Andrew Fink)

Student team: Nicola S. Carey, Mustafa O. Furkan, and Kourosh Mahvashmohammadi

Award: \$2000

Second place: University of Texas at Austin (Team 3); Austin, Tex. (Zone 2)

Faculty advisor: Oguzhan Bayrak, PhD

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures Inc. (Texas); Cedar Park, Tex. (Nick Faerber)

Student team: Aldo Benitez, Dogacan Biricik, Ruth Bribiesca, Eduardo Molina, Ha Jeung Oh, Casey Quackenbush, Harold Suarez, Xinchu Zhang, and Alberto Marquez

Award: \$1750

Third place: South Dakota School of Mines & Technology; Rapid City, S.Dak. (Zone 3)

Faculty advisor: M.R. Hansen, PhD, PE, SE, LS

PCI producer: Montana Prestressed Concrete (Cretex West); Billings, Mont. (Brian Jenner)

Student team: Dusty Daniels, Madisen Lane, Zach Grapentine, Kody Heller, Molly Pruess, Matt Henderson, and Steven Barnett

Award: \$1500

Fourth place: University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Ind. (Zone 4)

Faculty advisor: Yahya Kurama, PhD, PE

PCI producer: StresCore Inc.; South Bend, Ind. (John Reihl)

Student team: Brad Geyer, Ricardo Romero, Steve LeBerge, Matt Lang, Roberto Sosa, Tyler Kiefer, and Martin Le

Award: \$1250

National Competition (cont.)

Fifth place: California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento, Calif. (Zone 1)

Faculty advisor: Eric Matsumoto, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Clark Pacific; West Sacramento, Calif. (Glenn Underwood SE)

Student team: Alban Gjongecaj, Gaurav Bali, Vandalist Kith, Max Hardy, Kimberly Coraza, Cole Bianchin, and Joel Shinneman

Award: \$1000

Sixth place: University of North Florida / Civil Engineering (Team 1); Jacksonville, Fla. (Zone 6)

Faculty advisor: Adel ElSafty, PhD, PE, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Gate Precast Company; Jacksonville, Fla. (Tom Newton)

Student team: Georges El-Gharin, PE, Hector Flore, and Kirk Phillips

Award: \$1000

Seventh place: Fanshawe College (Team 2); London, ON, Canada (Zone 7)

Faculty advisor: Amneh Kalloush, M.Eng., P.Eng.

PCI producer: The Prestressed Group (PSI); Windsor, ON, Canada (Nebojsa Mladenovic)

Student team: Lee A. George, Jason King, Chad Brown, and Jamie Wilcocks

Award: \$1000

Zone 1

First place: California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento, Calif.

Faculty advisor: Eric Matsumoto, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Clark Pacific; West Sacramento, Calif. (Glenn Underwood SE)

Student team: Alban Gjongecaj, Gaurav Bali, Vandalist Kith, Max Hardy, Kimberly Coraza, Cole Bianchin, and Joel Shinneman

Award: See national competition

Second place: Oregon State University / School of Civil & Construction Engineering; Corvallis, Ore.

Faculty advisor: Keith Kaufman

PCI producer: Knife River Corporation – Northwest; Harrisburg, Ore. (Keith Kaufman)

Student team: Trevor Carey, Michael Jacobson, Christopher Kemp, Quincy Lee, Austin Maue, and Dan Serra

Award: \$750

Zone 1 (cont.)

Third place: Northern Arizona University (Team 1); Flagstaff, Ariz.

Faculty advisor: Robin Tuchscherer, PhD, PE

PCI producer: TPAC; Phoenix, Ariz. (David Chapin)

Student team: Junfeng Qian, Qi Wang, and Shiyu Wang

Award: \$500

Fourth place: University of Arizona (Team 2); Flagstaff, Ariz.

Faculty advisor: Robin Tuchscherer, PhD, PE

PCI producer: TPAC; Phoenix, Ariz. (David Chapin)

Student team: Erica Rocha, Danny Washburn, and Jessica Kettelkamp

Zone 2

First place: University of Texas at Austin (Team 3); Austin, Tex.

Faculty advisor: Oguzhan Bayrak

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures (TEXAS) Inc.; Cedar Park, Tex. (Nick Faerber)

Student team: Aldo Benitez, Dogacan Biricik, Ruth Bribiesca, Eduardo Molina, Ha Jeung Oh, Casey Quackenbush, Harold Suarez, Xinchu Zhang, and Alberto Marquez

Award: See national competition

Second place: University of Texas at Austin (Team 1); Austin, Tex.

Faculty advisor: Oguzhan Bayrak

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures (TEXAS) Inc.; Cedar Park, Tex. (Nick Faerber)

Student team: Georgios Moutsanidis, Stergios Koutrouvelis, Drit Sokoli, Laura McBride, Jennifer McCormack, Nicholas Maldonado, Victoria Segres, and William Sherwood

Award: \$750

Third place: University of Texas at Austin (Team 2); Austin, Tex.

Faculty advisor: Oguzhan Bayrak

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures (TEXAS) Inc.; Cedar Park, Tex. (Nick Faerber)

Student team: Chris Miller, Michael Gresham, Kyle Dunning, Joe Zeller, Janna Stover, Nolan Woyner, and Bryan Karns

Award: \$500

Zone 3

First place: South Dakota School of Mines & Technology; Rapid City, S.Dak.

Faculty advisor: M.R. Hansen, PhD, PE, SE, LS

PCI producer: Montana Prestressed Concrete (Cretex West); Billings, Mont. (Brian Jenner)

Student team: Dusty Daniels, Madisen Lane, Zach Grapentine, Kody Heller, Molly Pruess, Matt Henderson, and Steven Barnett

Award: See national competition

Second place: Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mankato, Minn.

Faculty advisor: Farhad Reza, PE

PCI producer: Wells Concrete; Wells, Minn. (Gregg Jacobson)

Student team: Nripendra Bastol and Ebrima Jaiteh

Award: \$750

Third place: University of Kansas; Lawrence, Kans.

Faculty advisor: Matt O'Reilly

Student team: Staci Ashcraft, Tyler Monnett, and Aaron Schneider

Award: \$500

Fourth place: University of Missouri & Kansas City S&T / Civil Engineering; Kansas City, Kans.

Faculty advisor: Ganesh Thiagarajan

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures (KANSAS) Inc.; Kansas City, Kans. (Bruno Burgess)

Student team: Timothy Hines, Mayuri Patil, Eli Hernandez, Alex Griffin, and Reed Norphy

Zone 4

First place: University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Ind.

Faculty advisor: Yahya Kurama, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Strescore Inc.; South Bend, Ind. (John Reihl)

Student team: Brad Geyer, Ricardo Romero, Steve LeBerge, Matt Lang, Roberto Sosa, Tyler Kiefer, and Martin Le

Award: See national competition

Second place: The Ohio State University (Team 6); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O'Connell)

Student team: Adam Rector, Andrew Gyde, Brian Harlow, Yun Ho Lee, and Kevin Wojcichowski

Zone 4 (cont.)

Third place: The Ohio State University (Team 8); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Angela Nappi, Jake Szaraz, Eli Cowan, Craig Goodnight, and Mike Micklewright

Fourth place (Tie): The Ohio State University (Team 9); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Chris Berg, Will Ferguson, Robert Kozak, Beth Miller, and Brian Witt

Fourth place (Tie): The Ohio State University (Team 2); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Andrew Helser, Jie Xu, Jinsong Fan, Yulan Zhang, and Eric Parris

Sixth place: The Ohio State University (Team 3); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Bruque Argaw, Tom Less, Joshua Hayes, Ben Aring, and Tommy Scheck

Seventh place: The Ohio State University (Team 1); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Dan Schmuhl, Evan Mutch, Megan Knapke, Michael Taricska, and Jesse Lesniak

Eighth place: The Ohio State University (Team 4); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Masha Ettefagh, Xiang Li, Kyle Straight, K.J. Yap, and Yuqing Yuan

Ninth place: The Ohio State University (Team 5); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Chris Alvey, Nick Berner, Erkan Bicici, Alec Sichko, and Enrique Terrones

Tenth place: The Ohio State University (Team 7); Columbus, Ohio

Faculty advisor: Halil Sezen

PCI producer: Prestress Services Industries; Mount Vernon, Ohio (Ed O’Connell)

Student team: Jared Backs, Brian Dudley, Brant Mercer, Emily Steva, and Christina Thyen

Zone 5



First place: Lehigh University (Team 2); Lehigh, Pa.

Faculty advisor: Clay J. Naito, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products LLC; Cressona, Pa. (Andrew Fink)

Student team: Nicola S. Carey, Mustafa O. Furkan, and Kourosh Mahvashmohammadi

Award: See national competition

Second place: Lehigh University (Team 1); Lehigh, Pa.

Faculty advisor: Clay J. Naito, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products LLC; Cressona, Pa. (Andrew Fink)

Student team: Hardik Doshi, Jose A. Hernandez, and Benjamin Nichols

Award: \$750

Third place: Norwich University; Northfield, Vt.

Faculty advisor: Edwin Schmeckpeper, PhD, PE

PCI producer: J.P. Carrara & Sons Inc.; Middlebury, Vt. (Benjamin Cota)

Student team: Fianna Barrows, Justin Cosgrove, Haley Vermes, and Kayla Weimert

Award: \$500

Zone 6

First place: University of North Florida / Civil Engineering (Team 1); Jacksonville, Fla.

Faculty advisor: Adel ElSafty, PhD, PE, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Gate Precast Company; Jacksonville, Fla. (Tom Newton)

Student team: Georges El-Gharin, PE, Hector Flore, and Kirk Phillips

Award: See national competition

Second place: University of North Florida / Civil Engineering (Team 2); Jacksonville, Fla.

Faculty advisor: Adel ElSafty, PhD, PE, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Gate Precast Company; Jacksonville, Fla. (Tom Newton)

Student team: Willard Casale, William Vaughn, and Doug Rhatigan

Award: \$750

Zone 7



First place: Fanshawe College (Team 2); London, ON, Canada

Faculty advisor: Amneh Kalloush, M.Eng. P.Eng.

PCI producer: The Prestressed Group (PSI); Windsor, ON, Canada (Nebojsa Mladenovic)

Student team: Lee A. George, Jason King, Chad Brown, and Jamie Wilcocks

Award: See national competition

Second place: Fanshawe College (Team 1); London, ON, Canada

Faculty advisor: Dr. Soloman Asantey, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: The Prestressed Group (PSI); Windsor, ON, Canada (Nebojsa Mladenovic)

Student team: Jianqiao Gao, Christopher Lalonde, Lukas Grabowski, and Ricardo Mariano

Award: \$750

Third place: University of Manitoba; Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Faculty advisor: Dagmar Svecova, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Lafarge; Winnipeg, MB, Canada (Ifan Lim, MSc, P.Eng.)

Student team: David Amorim and Matthew Lynch

Award: \$500