



focus

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Mike Johnsrud, Executive Director • info@pcimidwest.org

winter 25

AIA CONTINUING EDUCATION

PCI Midwest is a proud AIA Continuing Education Provider. Over the past five years, more than 37,000 AEC professionals have registered for our no-cost high-quality continuing education webinars. The mission of our programs is to increase awareness of precast concrete within the design and construction communities by delivering engaging, educational, relevant programs. All webinars are led by industry-recognized experts who bring deep, practical expertise to every session.

Attendee feedback has been consistently positive.

- Great explanation of material, use options and examples - very good presenters. *(Engineer from Illinois)*
- Relevant to projects I work on. *(Engineer from Illinois)*
- Excellent presentation with detailed analysis and explanation on the topic. *(Engineer from North Dakota)*
- Great to have the many pictorial examples to illustrate points of discussion. *(Architect from Wisconsin)*
- Very well organized and presented; gained an understanding beyond my current knowledge of precast concrete. *(Architect from Minnesota)*
- The presenter covered a lot on the topic in a very short time. Great examples! Good answers to questions. *(Architect from Nebraska)*
- This material was well presented...and gave me deeper grasp in an area where I have a significant need to understand better. *(Architect from Minnesota)*
- Really liked the entire discussion on how the building was renovated. Great photos. Good teamwork between the two presenters. *(Professor from Illinois)*

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

AIA Approved Continuing Education

Free credits!
Quality information!

JOIN US! ← *

We invite you to join us at noon CT on the third Wednesday of each month for continuing education opportunities that will not disappoint.

Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School



In the heart of the Chippewa National Forest and located on the same campus as the district's middle and high schools, the Cass Lake-Bena School District expanded its campus to better serve its growing student community. Recognizing the need for modern spaces that support today's educational and extracurricular demands, the district added a new gymnasium, cafeteria, classrooms, and office spaces that complement the existing campus.

Wells provided a prefabricated building envelope for the new spaces. The design features unique diagonal reveals on the exterior to mimic trees. The reveals visually connect the structure to the surrounding environment and bring an organic feel to the modern building. These elements were placed throughout the structure, contributing



to the overall visual theme and enhancing the architectural character. The project also featured other innovative elements, such as cast-in electrical conduits and large window openings for natural light, which provide a cleaner, more seamless appearance.

The campus addition blends function, durability, and thoughtful design that supports the district's long-term goals. By incorporating natural light, organic architectural details, and prefabricated building solutions, the new facility offers a welcoming environment tailored to the needs of modern learners — while remaining rooted in the landscape and community it serves.

Key project attributes

- Acid etch, custom formwork (reveals), sandblast, water wash finishes
- 75,000 square foot building

Project and precast scope

- Architectural Insulated Walls – 291 pieces totaling 56,160 square feet
- Hollowcore – 295 pieces totaling 27,194 square feet
- Solid Slabs – 18 pieces totaling 1,913 square feet

Architect: **LSE Architects, Inc.**
Engineer: **Paulson & Clark Engineering, Inc.**
Contractor: **Contegrity Group, Inc.**
Owner: **Cass Lake-Bena Schools**
Precaster: **Wells**
Precast Specialty Engineer: **Wells**
PCI Certified Erector: **Wells**
Location: **Cass Lake, MN**
Year of Completion: **2025**



Lebanon Hills Maintenance Facility



Molin Concrete Products has completed the architectural precast wall panels for the new Lebanon Hills Maintenance Facility, located near Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The modern facility replaces the existing

maintenance building and adds offices, meeting rooms, and generous storage to better serve city staff. A precast headhouse and greenhouse provide climate-controlled space for equipment and laboratory work.

Why precast concrete

- Durability: Resists weather, fire, and pests, reducing long-term maintenance.
- Speed: Prefabrication shortens schedules and streamlines installation.
- Performance: Strong thermal properties support energy efficiency and occupant comfort.

Design collaboration

Molin partnered with UrbanWorks to develop a tailored architectural precast solution. Deep brown, vertically ribbed panels with horizontal reveals and light-etch finishes deliver a refined, understated aesthetic that aligns with the building's purpose.

Key project attributes

- Install duration: Precast installation completed in eleven days



- Logistics: 120 truckloads delivered to the jobsite
- Panel count: 165 precast wall panels

Project and precast scope

- Architectural panels: 22,000 square feet of architectural precast wall panels
- Non-insulated panels: 5,000 square feet of non-insulated wall panels

Architect: **UrbanWorks Architecture, LLC**

Engineer: **Mattson, Macdonald, Young**

Contractor: **Rochon Corporation**

Owner: **Dakota County**

Precaster: **Molin Concrete Products Co.**

Precast Specialty Engineer:

Molin Concrete Products Co.

PCI Certified Erector: **Molin Concrete Products Co.**

Formliner Supplier: **Architectural Polymers**

Location: **Eagan, MN**

Year of Completion: **2024**



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USD Discovery District



As the inaugural building of the University of South Dakota's 80-acre Discovery District development, the research facility marks a major step in creating a hub for life sciences and biotech innovation in Sioux Falls. Designed to foster collaboration between academia and private industry, the building includes flexible lab space, conference rooms, and shared common areas to support a dynamic research environment.

One of the building's standout features is its tall window openings, split by a structural 6-inch concrete layer. This design gives the illusion of full-height windows while providing necessary structural support. An inset USD logo was cast into the prefabricated panel near the entry, designed to be subtle and blend in with the exterior. The wall panels were finished in a sleek black acid etch, delivering a bold, modern aesthetic that aligns with the campus vision for innovation.



As the first structure in a long-term, multi-phase development, this building sets the tone for future growth, providing a scalable and high-performance model for upcoming facilities in the Discovery District of Sioux Falls.

Key project attributes

- Architectural insulated walls – acid etch, black/charcoal
- Inset USD logo – meant to be subtle

Project and precast scope

- Architectural Insulated Walls – 59 pieces totaling 20,826 square feet
- Structural Solid Wall Elevator Shafts – 3 pieces totaling 944 square feet



Architect: **ISG**
Engineer: **ISG**
Contractor: **McGough**
Owner: **University of South Dakota**
Precaster: **Wells**
Precast Specialty Engineer: **Wells**
PCI Certified Erector: **Wells**
Location: **Sioux Falls, SD**
Year of Completion: **2025**



YOU MATTER AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

In the construction industry, mental health has reached a crisis level, and we recognize the need for additional support. Many employers find themselves without the necessary resources to effectively address the mental health challenges encountered

by their employees, with particular emphasis on the male demographic within their organizations.

pressures, requires various support systems, including those available below.



Our campaign, "You Matter," is more than just a tagline; it's a heartfelt affirmation of the value we place on every individual within our community. We believe in fostering an environment that acknowledges the challenges individuals may face and actively supports their mental health journey.

Together, we can break down the stigma surrounding mental health and create a culture where seeking help is not only accepted but encouraged. At PCI, we are here to help. You Matter, and so does your mental health. Explore the resources we've gathered for you by using the QR code above. Let's build a stronger, more resilient community together.

Recognizing the need for mental health and suicide prevention resources within our industry. We understand the construction field, with its unique set of challenges and

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