

New Year, New Opportunities



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Happy New Year! It seems like these “new years” keep coming faster the older I get. What’s exciting about each new year is it presents a chance to start over or try something new. Many people make New Year’s resolutions, such as to exercise more, save money, or visit relatives. Whatever your New Year’s resolution is, it’s a way of saying, “I’m going to improve my life this year and do something different.”

We like to do things different to improve. This applies to our work as well. Maybe we will re-organize our office or prioritize our projects. Or maybe we will try to design and build better structures. To be sure, it’s expected that we will design and build what is asked of us, but sometimes we need to push others we work with, such as an owner, contractor, or engineer, to elevate goals.

Often architects and some engineers (since I am one) can be visionaries that drive a project to a new level. This is part of the challenge of high-performance design—to build essentially the best structure we can for the given location and circumstances. It should be our goal to consider how the materials and systems we are using relate to each other and find ways to truly optimize the value they provide. We should push a little beyond our “comfort zone.”

You have heard me say it before, but precast concrete offers a high-performance material that helps accomplish this. In this issue of *Ascent*, we highlight mass-transit projects that use high-performance precast concrete to not only accomplish their goals but often exceed them. From CONRACs to airports to cruise terminals, high-performance precast concrete provides incredible opportunities to save time and money while building resilient high-performance structures.

So in 2016, are you going to do the same things you have always done? Or are you going to lead others to a better built structure using the most high-performance materials and techniques available?

As for me, I am trying something new as well. As of November 1st, 2015, I took a new position with W.R. Grace as their global marketing director for precast concrete. It’s a new and exciting challenge that pushes me out of my comfort zone.

I have truly enjoyed my time at PCI, and as executive editor of *Ascent* magazine. This has been the most rewarding job of my career, and it has been my privilege and honor to serve our industry in this capacity. I thank all of you for being loyal readers and hope that you have found, and will continue to find, value in this publication. I look forward to still seeing you in the industry as we continue to advance and improve the built environment.

ASCENT

On the cover: Port Canaveral, Fla., used precast for several of its structures. Photo: Aero Photo.

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- *Ascent* (Vol. 26, No. 1, ISSN 10796983) is published quarterly by the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, 200 W. Adams St., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606.
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