Evaluation service report for fire resistance renewed


Although PCI has published PCI 124-18, Specification for Fire Resistance of Precast/Prestressed Concrete since the original publication of ESR-1997, PCI 124 has only been adopted by the 2021 International Building Code.

New guide on 3-D printed molds available from PCI bookstore

A Guide on 3-D Molds for Precast Concrete has been published as an outcome of the research collaboration between PCI and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

This publication provides background information and guidance on the advantages, requirements, applicability, and implementation of 3-D printed molds for precast concrete fabrication. The guide is available free as a PDF to PCI members or for purchase as a hard copy from the PCI bookstore at https://www.pci.org/bookstore.

2022 PCI Design Awards call for entries

The PCI Design Awards program recognizes design excellence and construction quality using precast concrete. Be a part of the search for excellence and submit your precast concrete projects today.

The 2022 PCI Design Awards submission site opens on May 10, 2021. Visit https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI_Design_Awards/ for complete information, including this year’s categories and submission guidelines, or to make a submission.

Entries are accepted in two primary categories: buildings and transportation structures. In addition to buildings and transportation, there are special awards categories: the Harry H. Edwards Industry Advancement Award, the All-Precast Concrete Solution Award, the Sustainable Design Award, and the Building Information Modeling (BIM) Award.

August 10, 2021, is the submission deadline, and winners will be notified in November. All winning projects will be showcased at the 2022 PCI Convention featuring the National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show, March 1-5, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo., and will be included in a supplement to PCI Journal and Aspire and the spring issue of Ascent. For more information, contact PCIDesignAwards@pci.org.

2022 PCI Convention call for papers

PCI invites abstracts for technical papers, topics, or sessions to be presented at the 2022 PCI Convention featuring the National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show, March 1-5, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. The call for papers offers the exchange of ideas and information on precast concrete design, fabrication, and construction. The call for presentations provides an opportunity to discuss topics of interest to the precast concrete industry and present innovative solutions using precast concrete. For more information, go to https://pci.org/PCI/News-Events/Call_for_Papers. Email technical@pci.org with questions or to submit abstracts no later than August 1, 2021.
2021 PCI educator awards call for nominations

PCI’s educator awards program recognizes the work of academic professionals who exhibit a commitment to precast concrete in their graduate and undergraduate classrooms. Nominations must include recommendation letters, an updated curriculum vitae or resume, and additional information. A PCI Distinguished Educator and PCI Educator award are available. The awards will be presented at the 2021 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference to be held September 22–25, 2021, at the Loews O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont, Ill. Nomination forms must be submitted by July 1, 2021, and are available online at https://www.pci.org/EducatorAward. For more information about the educator awards program, contact Sherrie Nauden, continuing education senior manager, at snauden@pci.org.

Irwin J. Speyer Young Professional Engineer Award call for nominations

The Irwin J. Speyer Young Professional Engineer Award honors the legacy of Irwin J. Speyer by recognizing professional engineers who have made significant contributions during their early careers to PCI and who demonstrate their intent to continue serving the precast concrete industry as Irwin did for his entire career. The award will be presented at the 2021 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference, September 22–25, 2021. Complete award details and the official nomination form are available at http://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Speyer-Award. Nominations must be submitted by June 25, 2021.

The sooner the better

Almost everyone has heard the adage “the sooner the better.” When it comes to learning about precast concrete during your college career, one semester just isn’t enough and you cannot start learning too early. Often, that means students have to start from scratch with the question, “What is precast concrete?” Students who take part in the PCI Foundation’s Precast Studios are getting as much as 12 weeks of instruction about precast concrete and prestressed concrete in their area of expertise.

As the PCI Foundation works with more schools, professors, and students, we learn more about students’ thirst for knowledge and their need to obtain precast concrete basics from the very beginning of their education. More and more, our precast studios start out in materials classes with shorter modules in which students start to learn the basics of precast concrete.

For example, Isabella Zapata, a PhD student at Florida International University in Miami, had two other classes that touched on precast concrete before she got to her final precast concrete course with David Garber, associate professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering. In it, she has focused her research on bridges for the Florida Department of Transportation, especially piles and pile caps. She says that her three classes covering precast and concrete with Garber were really helpful in focusing her research.

Emily Schaeffer, a senior at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), has also had several precast concrete and prestressed concrete classes on her way to earning a certificate in precast concrete when she graduates with an engineering degree in May. In addition to learning the engineering side of precast concrete, students at UMD have the opportunity to take a class in conjunction with the Labovitz School of Business and Economics, where they create a precast concrete business plan.

“I’m really excited to take our business class for precast,” Schaeffer says. “It makes you just that much more excited because as a student, you don’t really see the business side and you don’t see the engineering every day. It’s awesome to hear from people as I’m then transitioning into the workforce.”

This new program model means that we are reaching more students than ever before. We hope to get as many students as we can to experience the 12-week course on precast concrete.
PCI Foundation awards

McNeese, NJIT with grants for four-year studios

Each year the PCI Foundation awards curriculum development grants to universities that submit applications and pass a rigorous review process for acceptance. McNeese State University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) are university grantees for 2021.

McNeese, a public university in Lake Charles, La., will receive $100,000 over a four-year program in the College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics led by Ahmed Abdel-Mohti, associate professor.

NJIT, located in Newark, will use its four-year grant to help support its Concrete Industry Management Program, which is a bachelor of science degree program focusing on the science, technology, management, and production of concrete, including new coursework covering precast and prestressed concrete hands-on learning. Leading the studio is Mohamed Mahgoup, associate professor and director of the Concrete Industry Management program.

PCI Foundation updates its 2021 calendar

The PCI Foundation has announced changes to its 2021 calendar.

Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Project Precast 2021 has been cancelled. The competition is scheduled to return in 2022, and details are available on the PCI Foundation website at https://www.pci-foundation.org/students.

The June 2021 Professors Seminar will still be held June 2–4 in Sacramento, Calif. For more information or to register, go to https://www.pci-foundation.org/professors-seminar-june-2021.

PCI Foundation Board of Trustees chooses 2020 award winners

The PCI Foundation Board of Trustees has selected Bradley Williams Partner of the Year and given Michael Carlos Barrios Kleiss the Community Engagement Award. The awards recognize the importance of industry partners and PCI Foundation grant programs that go beyond the classroom to engage local communities.

Williams, director of the Manufacturing Facades Group of Clark Pacific in Redlands, Calif., has shown exemplary leadership by facilitating experiential learning opportunities for students and serves as a model to other partners in collaborating with others.

Barrios, associate professor in the School of Architecture at Clemson University in South Carolina, was recognized for engaging major architectural firms, local precast concrete producers, and the U.S. State Department in his quest to expand the possibilities for his students. He also takes a group of students to Washington, D.C., every year to study the architecture of embassies and their inclusion of precast concrete.

The awards will be presented in May at an awards luncheon during the 2021 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in New Orleans, La.
The PCI Medal of Honor award was established to honor a person who has made extraordinary contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry. The nominees for the Medal of Honor shall have made a highly significant contribution to the precast concrete structures industry and shall have demonstrated a sincere continuing interest in the institute. The award will be presented at the 2022 PCI Convention featuring the National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show, March 1–5, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. Visit https://www.pci.org/Submission_Center for more information and nomination criteria. Nominations are being accepted through August 11, 2021, and should be sent to Arelys Schaedler, PCI’s executive assistant, at aschaedler@pci.org.

PCI Prestressed in a Box Program request for proposals

The PCI Educational Activities Council and the PCI Student Education Committee seek to update and modernize the existing Prestressed in a Box program. This program was developed as an actual box filled with materials for teaching engineering students at universities. Over the years, it has been changed to an electronic bundle. This request for proposals is to update all of the contents of the package to the most current PCI materials, including information on lateral loads and connections, as well as any other relevant content as needed.

The proposing individual must have experience in precast and prestressed concrete design and/or production and demonstrate an understanding of student learning principles in the university setting. The proposal should include a course description and an outline of the proposed courses. Program content must be technical in nature and useful to students in the engineering curriculum. It is expected that the course will follow the existing Prestressed in a Box outline and material offerings.

Proposals must be submitted no later than June 1, 2021. The submittal must be in PDF format and submitted to Sherrie Nauden at snauden@pci.org.

2022 PCI Medal of Honor call for nominations

The PCI Medal of Honor award was established to honor a person who has made extraordinary contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry. The nominees for the Medal of Honor shall have made a highly significant contribution to the precast concrete structures industry and shall have demonstrated a sincere continuing interest in the institute. The award will be presented at the 2022 PCI Convention featuring the National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show, March 1–5, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. Visit https://www.pci.org/Submission_Center for more information and nomination criteria. Nominations are being accepted through August 11, 2021, and should be sent to Arelys Schaedler, PCI’s executive assistant, at aschaedler@pci.org.
## 2021 Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award call for nominations

The Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award honors the legacy of Norman L. Scott by recognizing professional engineers who have made significant contributions to PCI, ACI, the precast concrete industry, and the engineering profession at large. The award will be presented at the 2021 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference, September 22–25, 2021. Complete award details and the official nomination form are available at http://pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Norman_L_Scott. Nominations must be submitted by June 25, 2021.

## 2021 T. Henry Clark Award call for nominations

Nominations for the T. Henry Clark Award, to be presented at the 2021 PCI Committee Days and Technical Conference, September 22–25, 2021, at the Loews O’Hare in Rosemont, Ill., should be submitted to qualityprograms@pci.org by June 1, 2021. The T. Henry Clark Award nomination form is available at https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Clark.

The T. Henry Clark Award was established to recognize an individual, group of individuals, or firm that has delivered a resource that improves or enhances the quality of precast concrete products or processes. T. Henry Clark believed in quality and quality processes, and this award is to recognize those who create or promote quality in a way that would have made him proud.

For more information, contact Gary Wildung, the Quality Activities Council chair, at gary.wildung@fdgcolorado.com or Mike Kesselmayer, PCI managing director of quality programs, at mkesselmayer@pci.org.

## 2021 Big Beam Contest call for entries

The PCI Engineering Design Competition, or Big Beam Contest, is designed to give graduate and undergraduate students real in-plant experience while they design a concrete beam to competition specifications. For more information, visit https://www.pci.org/BigBeam. All intending to submit a report must submit an application online at http://www.pci.org/bigbeamapp. Final reports are due to PCI by July 15, 2021.

## 2022 PCI Fellows call for nominations

The PCI Fellows recognition is awarded to individuals who embrace the values of the institute, who have provided continuous outstanding contributions to the U.S. precast concrete industry, and who have demonstrated exceptional service to PCI. Service to the industry may be considered in the areas of education, research, design, and/or production. PCI is accepting nominations for PCI Fellows, to be awarded during the 2022 PCI Convention featuring the National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show, March 1–5, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo. Nominations are being accepted through August 11, 2021. The criteria for this award and the nomination form are available online at https://www.pci.org/Submission_Center. For more information, contact Arelys Schaedler, PCI’s executive assistant, at aschaedler@pci.org.
PCI is accepting entries for the 2021 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. Launched in 2012, the award recognizes PCI-certified plants for excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast or glass-fiber-reinforced concrete structures and individual components. Any kind, size, or type of structure and/or element may be entered. Judging is based on success in overcoming obstacles to production, solutions to formwork or finishing challenges, and quality of individual units. Therefore, entries should include source documents, shop drawings, production photos as well as finished project photos to fully demonstrate the complex solutions implemented for the project. For more information, visit http://www.pci.org/SFCA. The deadline for all entries is July 1, 2021.

PCI personnel training and certification schools

Quality Control School event details are subject to change. If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI’s continuing education senior manager, Sherrie Nauden, at snauden@pci.org or (312) 360-3215. Registration forms are available at https://www.pci.org/qc_schools.

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Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org)

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