

J. Matthew DeVoss

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



# Planning for the future

As we approach the dog days of summer, we continue to monitor the tragic events in Ukraine and how the conflict may influence the global economy, which is already experiencing a high rate of inflation. Keeping an eye to the looming potential of a recession, I would like to keep my message on a more positive note.

Having just returned from a successful summer board meeting in New Orleans, I would like to thank all of the fellow board members for their attendance and participation in passing a balanced budget for the 2022–23 fiscal year. I am also pleased to announce that the board approved a motion to increase the target reserve from 40% to 50%, continuing the momentum that the previous PCI Executive Committee and Board of Directors set to be fiscally responsible and plan for rainy days. I am proud to be part of an organization that is financially responsible and continues to plan for the future.

As for my goal this year of helping establish a new workforce recruitment and development plan on national and then regional levels that can help our individual plants, I am pleased to report that we had many meaningful discussions at the official board meeting and during break-out sessions. The outcome was to develop a fast-track plan that would emanate from the Business Performance Council, chaired by Patty Patterson. Other members of the PCI team would then report back to the Executive Committee and eventually the board with a recommended plan of action. I am optimistic that this initiative will continue to expand, given that I've heard from a number of members that workforce recruitment, retention, and training is the most important issue facing industry productivity. I agree that we need to develop a well-conceived strategy that will benefit all of our members. Once we have created this strategy, I am optimistic that the board will be able to find funding, given that this issue received high priority on the 2022–23 wish list of additional programs. If you support this endeavor, please contact your chapter representative and offer support. Let's continue our efforts and make strides to identify, meet, and overcome our present challenges. [J](#)



**J. Matt DeVoss**

2022 PCI Board Chair  
President  
Jackson Precast Inc.  
Jackson, Miss.