

PCI brings on Cullen as technical activities director

PCI has hired Timothy Cullen to be the director of technical activities. In this position, Cullen will be responsible for program and project management of PCI technical activities related to the development and dissemination of the existing PCI body of knowledge.

“I’m very excited to join PCI,” Cullen says. “I look forward to working with other technical leaders in the institute, industry consultants, and volunteers to provide guidance and perspective on major technical issues confronting the industry and enhancing the PCI body of knowledge.”

Cullen has more than 14 years of experience in the design, detailing, construction, maintenance, and renovation of precast and precast, prestressed concrete structures. Before joining PCI, he was vice president of Blue Ridge Design, a structural engineering consulting firm in Winchester, Va., and was previously a design engineer with High Concrete Group in Denver, Pa.

As an active member of PCI, Cullen has been a voting member on the Industry Handbook and Joint and Connection Design Committees and a member of the Blue Ribbon Review Team for the eighth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*.

Cullen attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., where he earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and a master of science degree in structural engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in fourteen states and the District of Columbia.



Timothy Cullen

PCI adds new office assistant

Philip McConnell joined PCI on December 21, 2021, as the new office assistant.

In this position, McConnell will provide administrative support for member services and senior staff as needed. In addition, he will work under the supervision of Chris Hurst, PCI membership project manager, to provide support for president and CEO Bob Risser as well as the opera-



Philip McConnell

tions, quality programs, marketing, and education and architecture services departments.

McConnell comes to PCI with more than five years of association coordination experience in the steel industry. He has a BA in musical theatre performance from Columbia College in Chicago, Ill.

Project Precast student design competition returns to PCI Convention

Project Precast returns to the 2022 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Kansas City, Mo., with more teams and additional sponsors.

This year there will be an additional student team, bringing the total to six teams of three students: one student majoring in architecture, another from construction management, and a third student majoring in engineering.

The students were chosen earlier in the year and come from different universities across the United States. They are not informed of the specific design challenge nor do they meet their fellow teammates in advance, but the winning team stands to receive \$3000 cash and the team that gets the People’s Choice Award will receive \$1500.

Sika continues as the overall sponsor and is joined this year by Hamilton Form Co., sponsor of the Presentation Awards. Wells joins as the sponsor of the additional student team. Clark Pacific, The Consulting Engineers Group, Coreslab, Metromont, and Tindall Corp. are returning to sponsor the other five teams. All team sponsors will serve as coaches and mentors.

The live presentations will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 4, in the Kansas City Convention Center. In 2020, before the one-year hiatus, the live team presentations had more than 100 attendees. Competition winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m. the same day at the PCI Design Awards Cocktail Reception at Loews Kansas City.



July 1 deadline for EPP program submittals

The deadline for 2022 Exceptional Precast Practices (EPP) submissions is July 1. The EPP is a quality improvement tool that gives producer plants an opportunity to self-assess their management systems and operations for the purpose of identifying and implementing appropriate improvements.

Companies that have successfully adopted a path of continuous quality improvement typically exhibit a pattern of reduced costs, improved quality, and expanded capabilities. They show growing sales because they better serve the needs of their clients.

There are a variety of continuous quality improvement tools available, but the EPP program is a tool specifically created for the precast concrete industry. The EPP program, developed by the Quality Enhancement Committee, offers both a road map for improvement efforts and milestones for measuring progress.

To participate in this voluntary program, submit a completed self-assessment survey for each of the seven modules: productivity, personnel, safety, field operations, sales and marketing, sustainable plant, and concrete. This process allows plants not only to benchmark where they are today but also to review programs of proven worth that other PCI plants find valuable.

This process also allows plant personnel to decide on a road map for the future. If this process is managed well, the items on that road map become the goals and programs for improvement and it provides the basis for accountability for achievement. The benchmark score allows the plant to measure progress from year to year. All participating plants are provided with an annual certificate of participation, and those submitting their completed surveys to PCI by July 1 will be recognized in September at the PCI Committee Days Conference in Rosemont, Ill. To participate or learn more about the program, visit https://www.pci.org/PCI/Members_Only/Quality_Assurance_Resources.aspx.

WHAT PARTNERSHIP BRINGS THE PRODUCER



In soliciting for the PCI Foundation, it is easy to talk about the benefits to students who work in a PCI Studio. They benefit from hands-on learning that engages them with real questions and experiences that will propel new ideas and help them explore new ways to build and design. Our industry receives many benefits from working with students, professors, and schools through the PCI Foundation.

One of the first things I noticed at Tindall when we became part of the PCI Foundation programs was that the ties we already had with universities and the engineering departments became even stronger. We have hired a considerable number of engineers over the years and more recently, many of our new hires have been students we've met through their interaction with the architectural studio. A nice surprise, though, was that it isn't only the students and professors with whom we are now connected. I have a sense of connection with the architectural community in the region, both by association with top firms through joint sponsorship and through educating the future generation of practicing architects.

Before Tindall became involved with the studios in our area, most of our connection with the local schools was through the engineering depart-



Greg Force
PCI Foundation
Chairman

ment. The opportunity to learn about what guides architects' thinking has been eye-opening for a dumb old engineer. Architects are an important part of our future, and knowing how they think and learn will be helpful as we move forward and start bidding jobs for these students as they become our customers.

But I'm not the only one who has enjoyed the experience of working with the students. Our production staff particularly enjoy the opportunity to train the young folks in hands-on work with concrete. We all experience a sense of pride in investing in PCI's future and representing the institute to the regions we serve.

Working through the PCI Foundation and our local region has allowed students and the school to see us as an industry, not just a single plant or company, which means the work that Tindall does at one school may benefit precasters in the rest of the United States. Because they know of the PCI Foundation, the students will think of PCI-certified plants and precast concrete as an industry.

If you haven't had a chance to work with a school yet, it isn't too late. The next Professors Seminar is coming up from May 18 to 20 in Atlanta, Ga. A great first step in partnering with a school is attending the Professors Seminar with an interested professor to see what the program is all about. Visit <https://www.pci-foundation.org/professors-seminar-june-2021> for more information.

University of Delaware hosts PCI Foundation lectures

As part of the PCI Foundation's grant with the University of Delaware in Newark, Jovan Tatar, assistant professor, invited members of the precast and prestressed concrete industry to speak to his classes for his fall 2021 guest lecture series.

In September, David Orndorff of Metromont and David Jablonsky of ALP Supply discussed precast concrete connections with students in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Tatar concluded the guest lecture series in December with Greg Gorman, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Pennstress. Gorman discussed accelerated bridge construction techniques, precast concrete bridge elements, and several precast concrete bridge case studies.

Nickas delivers keynote at Fall 2021 Sacramento State Precast Bridge Studio Finale

William Nickas, PCI's director of transportation systems, gave the keynote address, "Bridge Events that Impact Your Career ... and You Will Experience Some," at the Fall 2021 Sacramento State Precast Bridge Studio Finale.

The fourth year of the PCI Foundation Precast Bridge Studio concluded December 16 with the annual finale, which included California State University, Sacramento, student presentations

from integrated civil engineering and construction management teams. The awards ceremony recognized significant contributions from the precast concrete bridge industry, including semester-long student mentorship and field trips to Con-Fab California LLC and Sumiden Wire plants, plus a girder erection site visit.

Eric Matsumoto and Mikael Anderson, Sacramento State professors of structural engineering and construction management, respectively, have played key roles in the first ever PCI Foundation-sponsored design studio to focus on precast concrete bridges. The program is a collaborative effort that immerses students in the California precast concrete bridge industry, including precasters, bridge engineers, construction managers, contractors, suppliers, and a bridge design software firm.

William Nickas gives the keynote speech, on December 16 at the Fall 2021 Sacramento State Precast Bridge Studio Finale at the Sacramento State Union after four integrated civil engineering and construction management student teams presented their design-build projects before a judging panel and other local and national bridge industry mentors and representatives. Courtesy of Eric Matsumoto.



2021/22 BIG BEAM CONTEST CALL FOR ENTRIES

- >> The PCI Student Education Committee is inviting entries from students to participate in the Engineering Student Design (Big Beam) Competition for the 2021/22 academic year. Each student team must work with a PCI producer member to build a precast/prestressed concrete beam that is 20 ft (6 m) long. The beams will be tested and prizes awarded for best performance in the stated areas. Students must discuss both the structural design and the concrete mixture proportions for the beam. 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, 2022.

2022 SIDNEY FREEDMAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD CALL FOR ENTRIES

- >> PCI is accepting entries for the 2022 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, 2022.

2022 T. HENRY CLARK AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- >> Nominations for the T. Henry Clark Award, to be presented at the 2022 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 20–24, 2022, at the Loews O’Hare in Rosemont, Ill., should be submitted to qualityprograms@pci.org by June 1, 2022. The T. Henry Clark Award nomination form is available at https://www.pci.org/PCI_Docs/About/Awards/Clark_Award_Nomination_Form.pdf.

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 Kesselmayr, PCI managing director of quality programs, at mkesselmayr@pci.org.

PCI TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

- >> PCI is looking for an enterprising and well-qualified technical intern to assist the PCI Technical Services team. This individual will support the development of technical resources on precast concrete and will gain a unique experience advancing the institute’s body of knowledge. If you are interested or know an engineering student who may be interested in a full-time internship with PCI, please review the opportunity at http://pci.org/PCI/News-Events/Precast_Careers/PCI_HQ.aspx.

2022 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. PCI Distinguished Educator and PCI Educator Awards are available. The awards will be presented at the 2022 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 20–24, 2022, at the Loews O’Hare in Rosemont, Ill., and nomination forms must be submitted by July 1, 2022. Nomination forms 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.

2022 IRWIN J. SPEYER YOUNG ENGINEER AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- >> The Irwin J. Speyer Young Professional Engineer Award honors the legacy of Irwin J. Speyer by recognizing young professional engineers who have made significant contributions to PCI during their early careers and who demonstrate their intent to continue serving the precast concrete industry as Speyer did during his career. The award will be presented September 20–24, 2022, at the 2022 PCI Committee Days Conference in Rosemont, Ill. 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 May 1, 2022.

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, the American Concrete Institute, the precast concrete industry, and the engineering profession at large. The award will be presented September 20–24, 2022, at the 2022 PCI Committee Days Conference in Rosemont, Ill. 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 May 1, 2022.

PCI's CALENDAR

Events

PCI event details are subject to change. For the most current information, visit <https://www.pci.org/events>.

2022 PCI Convention at The Precast Show Loews Kansas City Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.	March 1-5, 2022
PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin Membership Meeting Crowne Plaza Milwaukee South, Milwaukee, Wis.	April 5, 2022
PCI Northeast Spring Meeting Saybrook Point Resort, Old Saybrook, Ct.	April 26–April 27, 2022
2022 PCI Productivity Tour TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, St. Petersburg, Fla.	May 9–11, 2022
PCI Central Region 2022 Spring Event St. Louis, Mo.	May 10–11, 2022
PCI Board of Directors and Committee Meetings Westin New Orleans, New Orleans, La.	June 7–10, 2022
PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin Summer Event Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, Wis.	July 12, 2022
PCI Mid-Atlantic Summer Membership Meeting Williamsburg, Va.	August 4–5, 2022
PCI Central Region 2022 Summer Event Florence, Ind.	August 23–24, 2022
2022 PCI Committee Days Conference Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, Ill.	September 20–24, 2022
2023 PCI Committee Days Conference Marriott Tampa Water Street, Tampa, Fla.	October 3–7, 2023

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.

Levels I and II	March 29–31, 2022 April 19–22, 2022 June 20–22, 2022 July 18–21, 2022 August 9–10, 2022 October 10–12, 2022 December 12–14, 2022	Toronto, ON, Canada online Chicago, Ill. online Denver, Colo. Orlando, Fla. Nashville, Tenn.
Level III	March 14–17, 2022 June 22–23, 2022 August 9–12, 2022 October 10–13, 2022 December 12–15, 2022	online Chicago, Ill. Denver, Colo. Orlando, Fla. Nashville, Tenn.
Certified Field Auditor	May 16–18, 2022	online
Certified Company Auditor	May 19, 2022	online

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