

J. Matthew DeVoss

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

# Gratitude and PCI


As we approach the holiday season, and in my seventh month serving as your chair, I would like to reflect on what I am thankful for in the precast and prestressed concrete industry. First, I am thankful for the energy and investment that we're all making as evidenced by the recent turnout at PCI Committees Days. We had almost 600 registrants in Rosemont last month, suggesting a renewed appreciation for the opportunity to meet in person, generate collective ideas, tackle issues, discuss industry trends, and enjoy being with industry colleagues. The feedback that I received from several board members and committee chairs has been positive, and many report engaging in a productive week.

Second, I am grateful for the new Workforce Development Committee, which met for the first time at last month's Committee Days. I believe workforce development is the biggest issue that we currently face and will continue to face in the near future. It is important that we make a collective effort to address this challenge, drawing from our individual experiences and suggestions to strategize an education and retention platform that serves us all. Most of you have probably grown tired of my saying that we have many great people in our industry; we just need more!

I know that it seems change at the national level can move slowly. That said, I am continually invigorated by the enthusiasm and input from all who attended the Workforce Development Committee meeting in September. I was especially impressed by the number of current and former PCI national board members in attendance. This was evidence that this issue is paramount in your own organization as well as to our shared success. I wanted to extend my gratitude again to Erin Clark with Standard Concrete Products and Ben Grimsley with CarbonCure Technologies for agreeing to serve as chair and vice chair of this newly formed committee. The board and I appreciate your answer to the call and look forward to hearing your recommendations.

Third, I am thankful for my fellow PCI Executive Committee colleagues: Dennis Fink of Northeast Prestressed, Matt Ballain of Coreslab Structures (INDIANAPOLIS), Jim Fabinsky of Encon United, and Bob Risser, PCI president. We come together, representing a variety of backgrounds, regions in the country, and scales of facilities, but we have managed to tackle many issues and will continue to do so. I am grateful for both their leadership and their friendship.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't extend my thanks to the leadership team at PCI. As part of the Executive Committee over the past few years, I have grown to appreciate how hard this team works and to better understand the challenges the members face on any given day. I firmly believe this is one of the best leadership teams that PCI has assembled, and I am grateful for being able to work alongside them.

Family and friends join together during the holidays, reinforcing bonds, offering one another support and enjoying fellowship. A special thanks to those who have shared and gathered with me at the PCI table, and I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season! 



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