



PCI Foundation award nominations open

Nominations for the PCI Foundation's Partner of the Year and the annual Community Engagement Award are open until November 15.

Recognizing the importance of industry partners and PCI Foundation grant programs that go beyond the classroom to engage local communities, PCI Foundation's Board of Trustees is looking for nominations for Partner of the Year and the Community Engagement Award. Both annual awards honor recipients who went above and beyond in 2022. The awards will be presented in February 2023 at the Awards Luncheon during the 2023 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Columbus, Ohio. To submit nominations and for more information, contact Marty McIntyre, executive director of the PCI Foundation, at martymci@pci-foundation.org.

PCI offers Basic Prestressed Concrete Design in early 2023

PCI is offering an online Basic Prestressed Concrete Design course intended for licensed engineers, engineers in training, professors, and graduate and undergraduate students. Nine professional development hours will be awarded at the conclusion of the course.

Sergio Breña, professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will explain the basic concepts and methods of prestressed concrete design. Attendees will work through the design of a simple prestressed concrete rectangular beam of a building. Both straight strand and harped-strand design will be covered in the example.

Dates for the next six-session course are January 28; February 2, 9, and 16; and March 2 and 9, and each session lasts 90 minutes. The last day to register is January 19, 2023. For more information or to register, visit https://www.pci.org/PCI/News-Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=EDUBP-CD123.

2023 Project Precast teams to be announced December 12

The PCI Foundation will announce five 2023 Project Precast teams on December 12, 2022. When the Project Precast competition takes place in February at the 2023 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Columbus, Ohio, there will be an additional team, for a total of six teams, and more students on each team.

The deadline for students to apply to be on a Project Precast team is December 1, 2022. To apply, visit <https://www.pci-foundation.org/students>. Students who are chosen to participate in the competition will have all expenses paid and a chance to win cash prizes.

Precast Protects Life website goes live

The new Precast Protects Life page at <https://www.pci.org/howprecastbuilds/precast-protects-life/> on the PCI website has gone live. The page contains a variety of information, materials, and resources about precast concrete's resilient properties. It was designed as a tool to share with clients and customers.

To submit projects that demonstrate precast concrete's resilience for possible inclusion in *Ascent* magazine and other marketing materials, please contact the PCI marketing department at marketing@pci.org.

Changes to Jenny Fellowship Program

On September 23, 2022, the PCI Research and Development Council voted to initiate changes to the Daniel P. Jenny and Dennis R. Mertz Fellowship Programs. Based on feedback from past applicants and recipients, the Fellowship requirements, funding, and schedule will be modified to reflect evolving academic research programs.

PCI anticipates posting the solicitation in spring 2023 with applications due in August. Any questions regarding the Fellowship programs may be sent to technical@pci.org.

PCI's CALENDAR

Events

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

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| PCI Gulf South Winter Meeting Biloxi, Miss. | November 15-16, 2022 |
| PCI West 2023 Annual Board Meeting World of Concrete, Las Vegas, Nev. | January 18, 2023 |
| Georgia/Carolinas PCI Winter Meeting Columbia, S.C. | January 18-20, 2023 |
| Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Winter Meeting Orlando, Fla. | January 25-26, 2023 |
| PCI Mid-Atlantic Winter Meeting The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, Hanover, Md. | February 16-17, 2023 |
| 2023 PCI Convention at the Precast Show Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio | February 21-25, 2023 |
| PCI Productivity Tour Charlotte, N.C. | May 1-3, 2023 |
| PCI West 2023 Summer Board Meeting Woodland, Calif. | May 24, 2023 |
| Georgia/Carolinas PCI Summer Meeting Hilton Head Island, S.C. | June 14-16, 2023 |
| 2023 PCI Board of Directors Meeting Indianapolis, Ind. | June 20-23, 2023 |
| Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Summer Meeting Charlotte Harbor, Fla. | July 27-30, 2023 |
| PCI Gulf South Summer Convention Fairhope, Ala. | July 27-30, 2023 |
| PCI Mid-Atlantic Summer Membership Meeting Annapolis, Md. | August 3-4, 2023 |
| 2023 PCI Committee Days Conference Tampa, Fla. | October 4-8, 2023 |
| PCI Gulf South 2023 Winter Meeting Biloxi, Miss. | November 7-8, 2023 |
| PCI West 2024 Annual Board Meeting World of Concrete, Las Vegas, Nev. | January 24, 2024 |
| Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Winter Meeting Orlando, Fla. | January 30-31, 2024 |
| 2024 PCI Convention at The Precast Show Denver, Colo. | February 6-9, 2024 |
| PCI West 2024 Summer Board Meeting Woodland, Calif. | May 22, 2024 |
| 2024 PCI Committee Days Conference Nashville, Tenn. | September 23-27, 2024 |
| 2025 PCI Committee Days Conference Loews Chicago O'Hare, Chicago, Ill. | September 16-20, 2025 |

PCI FOUNDATION AND THE INNOVATION COMMITTEE



Over the past several years, the Innovation Committee has worked with universities to develop solutions to long-standing problems within the industry. The committee includes at least one professor from the PCI Foundation to help ensure that we are working together with the PCI Foundation on how students and professors are approaching innovation. Two projects were awarded Jenny Fellowships to conduct research and develop solutions to ongoing challenges.



isaac Perkins

Employee safety is one of the main concerns in any manufacturing operation. In a precasting and prestressing plant, this is extremely important, and getting employees quickly acclimated to the environment is critical to their success. Mississippi State University in Starkville worked with the industry to develop a safety module that was presented to new hires in virtual reality. The method-

ology demonstrated a highly interactive training at a low cost to employers.

Quality is another area that has ample opportunity for improvement in our industry. Currently most quality checks are done the same way they were many years ago. A person with a drawing and tape measure checks the location of all components. Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, in collaboration with industry partners, researched the possibility of using three-dimensional (3-D) scanning to check products. The results of the research demonstrated an ability to automate and quantitatively measure component geometry, location of embeds, and surface finish.

It is evident that partnering with universities will be critical as we continue to push innovation. PCI's Innovation Committee is discussing using 3-D printing for molds, 3-D-printed concrete, concrete with a reduced carbon footprint, improved R-values, drone technology, and automation with the industry.

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 education department at education@pci.org. Registration forms are available at https://www.pci.org/qc_schools.

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| Levels I and II | November 14-17, 2022 December 12-14, 2022 | online Nashville, Tenn. |
| Level III | November 8-11, 2022 December 12-15, 2022 | Austin, Tex. Nashville, Tenn. |

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