

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Support our future, support the PCI Foundation

Matt Ballain, PCI's chair, has said that one of his priorities for this year is continuing to focus on education, especially the relationship between PCI and students and professors. PCI has several exciting projects underway on this front. PCI's Prestressed-in-a-Box teaching materials have been updated and will be rolled out this spring. Also available this spring is a new student edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. This abbreviated version of the *PCI Design Handbook* will be available electronically free of charge to students and professors to maximize their exposure to prestressed concrete in their studies. Finally, a group of professors under the Student Education Committee is developing a semester's worth of teaching materials that engineering professors will be able to use to teach precast and precast, prestressed concrete to their students.

Even more important in developing these relationships with the students who are our industry's future is the work of the PCI Foundation through its curriculum development grants, also known as studios. The PCI Foundation Board of Trustees just approved two new programs at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. This brings the current number of active studios to 24 and the total number of studios throughout the program history to 42. These programs have greatly enhanced the relationship between the industry and the students and professors who participate in the programs. As an example of this relationship, more than 140 students from PCI Foundation programs attended the recent PCI Convention in Columbus, Ohio, up from 100 in 2022. Twenty-four students participated in the highly successful Project Precast competition, and a number of schools exhibited posters on their projects on The Precast Show floor.

The PCI Foundation needs your support to continue this work so vital to our future. Luckily, PCI has made it easy for every PCI member to do their part to support the PCI Foundation. It is renewal season at PCI for plant certifications and membership. As part of the renewal process, PCI provides the opportunity to support the PCI Foundation with a suggested donation. I encourage all PCI members to stay opted in with their donation and support our future.

To change topics, the PCI Convention in Columbus was an enormous success, with record attendance of more than 1000. The Precast Show also saw record attendance of more than 5200 people and 380 exhibitors. The PCI membership is tremendously enthusiastic about our programs and the value PCI brings to our members. I want to thank Matt DeVoss, past chair, for his successful year and look forward to working with our new chair, Matt Ballain; our new vice chair, Jim Fabinski; and our new secretary-treasurer, Carlos Cerna, on our goals for the year ahead. Thanks also to all the volunteers and the PCI staff for all their hard work in producing such an outstanding event! 📺



Bob Risser, PE
PCI President and CEO