

## FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

### PCI brings on Encher as new membership director

PCI has hired Shelly Encher as its new membership director. She will be responsible for designing and implementing PCI's membership growth and retention strategy and the day-to-day management of member engagement. She will also serve as the liaison for several committees to help build a strong membership culture within PCI.

Encher has more than 15 years of not-for-profit experience in membership and outreach. Most recently, she was director of membership and outreach at the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, where she provided recommendations on future initiatives and developed strategies to recruit new members and retain current members. She has also worked with the Institute of Real Estate Management and the YMCA of Metro Chicago.

Encher has a bachelor of arts in marketing communications from DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.

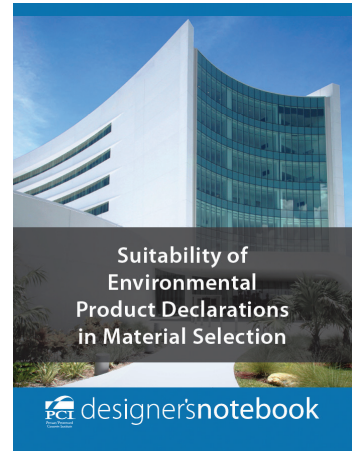


Shelly Encher

declarations (EPDs) in design and construction.

This Designer's Notebook focuses on decision-makers' understanding of how EPDs are developed so that they know when it is appropriate to compare them. The concepts discussed apply to the selection of any material that introduces embodied carbon into the completed structure and the ways that EPDs can be used to make sustainable material selections.

*Suitability of Environmental Product Declarations in Material Selection* is available as a free PDF in the PCI bookstore at <https://doi.org/10.15554/DN-37-23>.



### New Designer's Notebook covers EPDs, sustainability

PCI has published a new Designer's Notebook, *Suitability of Environmental Product Declarations in Material Selection* (DN-37-23), that discusses the role of environmental product

### PCI Foundation moves Project Precast deadline to October 15

The deadline for student applications for Project Precast 2024 has been moved. All students interested must apply no later than October 15, 2023.

A link will be provided on the PCI Foundation website [PCI-Foundation.org](https://PCI-Foundation.org), and applicants will be notified by November 10.

In 2023, six Project Precast teams and alternates competed for multiple cash prizes, including \$4000 to the winning team. Courtesy of the PCI Foundation.



"Spots on a Project Precast team are very competitive, and each year we get more calls from professors and more student applicants," says Marty McIntyre, PCI Foundation executive director. "With an earlier than usual date for the Precast Show, February 5, 2024, we want to ensure we keep our quality high and continue to deliver an amazing student event."

Students chosen for a Project Precast team will have all expenses paid to the 2024 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Denver, Colo. This includes airfare, hotel, meals, and a cash allowance for four nights. Details, a link to apply, and updates can be found at [www.pci-foundation.org/students](http://www.pci-foundation.org/students).

## PCI Foundation hires Clark as executive director

The PCI Foundation has appointed Ray Clark as its new executive director, effective in mid-September. In this role, Clark will work closely with the PCI Board of Directors and PCI Foundation supporters to strengthen connections between industry partners and educational institutions, providing transformative



Ray Clark

## MATERIALS COURSES FOR PRECAST CONCRETE INCLUDE ARCHITECTURE STUDIES

>> Over the past few years, the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees has encouraged our grantees to include teaching material design and methods as well as structures to architecture and engineering students. When we first started, the cutting-edge materials work mostly fell on the engineering side of what we saw. The PCI Foundation Board of Trustees encourages professors to work with students on topics that are of interest to the precast concrete industry as a whole, such as ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC).



Greg Force  
PCI Foundation  
Chair

More recently, architecture programs involved with the PCI Foundation grant programs are also looking at concrete materials. For instance, at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Richard Garber has been teaching Matter, Making, and Testing: Designing with Next Generation Precast Concrete since the fall of 2019. The three-hour seminar-format course was specifically developed based on the school's goals and a PCI Foundation grant. The course is a technical elective, open to architecture students and to the larger Stuart Weitzman School of Design community, and has been overenrolled since its inception.

"In addition to being extremely popular to graduate architecture students, those enrolled in Penn's master of architecture program, we have seen crossover enrollment from our more specialized master of science programs, including the MS in advanced architectural design, the MS in robotics and automated systems, and environmental building design," Garber says. Fall 2022 had an enrollment of 20 graduate students. At the time of writing, the course was already full

for the fall of 2023.

This fall, through monies provided by the PCI Foundation grant, the Matter, Making, and Testing class engaged students in learning about UHPC, challenging them to design precast concrete panels of minimum thickness and nonstandard shape grammars. Student teams were provided with 5 by 10 ft (1.5 by 3 m) piece of 1/8 in. (3 mm) sheet steel, which they had to use to create formwork that would be used to cast two panels. In addition to the sheet steel, which was cut and formed using Northeast Precast's state-of-the-art CNC plasma cutters at its Vineland, N.J., plant, students were able to use foam inserts, which were produced at Penn facilities.

The class conducted three day trips to Northeast Precast's plant. The first, in late September 2022, served as an introduction to Northeast Precast's facilities and team, and the second, in early November, was pour day. The time between saw a flurry of intensity, with student and Northeast Precast teams designing panels, formwork, and the workflow that would produce both. Although much of the formwork fabrication occurred in the time leading up to pour day, all students were present to do final formwork assembly, including fastening, caulking, and general preparation. They also mixed the UHPC and poured the panels. The final visit was in early December and included their final presentations and panel reveal. No images of the final panels were shared with the students, so their first interaction with their work was that day at the plant.

Guests for the final presentation included Peter Finsen, a former PCI board member; Dawn Decker, executive director of PCI Mid-Atlantic; and Penn faculty members Ezio Blasetti and Drew Busmire.

educational experiences for students across the country. Clark takes over from Marty McIntyre, who was its first executive director and has served the organization for more than 11 years. In her tenure, McIntyre grew the PCI Foundation to more than 20 active studios in architectural, construction management, and engineering schools across the United States.

Clark most recently served as the executive director of Georgia/Carolinas PCI, where he worked to increase awareness and use of precast concrete solutions. Prior to that role, Clark was president at US Formliner and has also sat on the PCI Foundation's Board of Trustees.

## 2024 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 of the Year Awards are available. Nomination

forms must be submitted by October 9, 2023, and the awards will be presented at the 2024 PCI Convention at the Precast Show, February 6-9, 2024, in Denver, Colo.

Nomination forms are available online at <https://www.pci.org/EducatorAward>. For more information about the educator awards program, contact [education@pci.org](mailto:education@pci.org).

## PCI's CALENDAR



### Events

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

<b>PCI Architectural Precast Production Workshop</b> Hartford, Conn.	September 6-8, 2023
<b>2023 PCI Northeast Meeting</b> Graduate Providence, Providence, R.I.	September 18-19, 2023
<b>2023 PCI Committee Days Conference</b> Tampa, Fla.	October 4-8, 2023
<b>PCI Gulf South 2023 Winter Meeting</b> Biloxi, Miss.	November 7-8, 2023
<b>PCI West 2024 Annual Board Meeting</b> World of Concrete, Las Vegas, Nev.	January 24, 2024
<b>Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Winter Meeting</b> Orlando, Fla.	January 30-31, 2024
<b>2024 PCI Convention at The Precast Show</b> Denver, Colo.	February 6-10, 2024
<b>PCI West 2024 Summer Board Meeting</b> Woodland, Calif.	May 22, 2024
<b>2024 PCI Board of Directors Meeting</b> Jackson Hole, WY	June 4-6, 2024
<b>2024 PCI Committee Days Conference</b> Nashville, Tenn.	September 23-27, 2024
<b>2025 PCI Convention at The Precast Show</b> Denver, Colo.	February 3-7, 2025
<b>2025 PCI Committee Days Conference</b> Loews Chicago O'Hare, Chicago, Ill.	September 16-20, 2025



## 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 coordinator, [education@pci.org](mailto:education@pci.org). Registration forms are available at [https://www.pci.org/qc\\_schools](https://www.pci.org/qc_schools).

<b>Levels I and II</b>	September 18-21, 2023 October 25-27, 2023 November 13-16, 2023	online Nashville, Tenn. online
<b>Level III</b>	October 24-27, 2023 December 11-14, 2023	Nashville, Tenn. online
<b>Certified Field Auditor</b>	September 11-14, 2023	online
<b>Certified Company Auditor</b>	September 15, 2023	online

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