

## Opportunities at home and abroad

It seems every year at this time we ask, “Where did the summer go?” It has been a busy one, and I would like to say thanks for the welcome and hospitality we received from all the PCI chapters we visited this summer. The energy and excitement around the success the local organizations are having with the design community, universities, and Departments of Transportation is great to see, and we look forward to continuing our work together.

At each meeting, we continue to discuss the need for PCI producers to develop environmental product declarations (EPDs) for their specific plants. More and more designers and owners are requiring EPDs from their suppliers for construction projects. PCI has provided tools and information to help member producers establish EPDs. Information is also available on the PCI website at <https://www.pci.org/SustainabilityResources>.

One of the most exciting developments this summer was the announcement by the EPA that PCI has been selected, along with partners National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) and the American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA), for a grant of almost \$10 million over five years to help industry members across all three groups to establish EPDs for precast concrete products. PCI will be the lead organization for the grant, which we hope will be awarded by the end of the year. The grant proposal includes resources to develop new product category rules that will include cradle-to-grave considerations. It also includes resources for the creation of a new EPD development tool specifically designed for precast concrete elements and their manufacturing processes. Once completed, this tool will be available to precast concrete manufactures to use free of charge. Once the grant is awarded, there will also be resources to supplement the cost to members for using the current tool that is available. Further resources will be available for education and guidance to members to help them through the process of developing EPDs. This is by far the largest grant PCI has ever received, and I want to thank the PCI staff and the staffs at NPCA and APCA for their great work on the proposal.

I'd like to announce another exciting opportunity for PCI members, this time in Europe. Under the leadership of Jim Fabinski, PCI chair, we will be bringing back the Technoquest overseas tours beginning next year. We are in the final planning stages of tours of precast concrete operations in Sweden and Finland in mid-May 2025. Final details and costs will be announced by Committee Days in September. The trip will be limited to 50 PCI members and their guests on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be a great opportunity to see automation and other technologies that we can bring back home. 📌



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