

FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

ALP Supply, CEG receive Associate Member Awards

The 2025 PCI Premier Supplier/Services Associate Member Award went to ALP Supply, and the 2025 PCI Supporting Supplier/Services Associate Member of the Year Award went to The Consulting Engineers Group Inc.

ALP Supply has been a leading supplier of products and solutions for the precast concrete industry for more than 50 years. Headquartered in Fairless Hills, Pa., ALP offers domestically manufactured products, including a variety of lifting anchors, connections, weld plates, and bearing pads. ALP Supply is also a dedicated PCI associate member, advertising in PCI publications, exhibiting at PCI events, and regularly serving as a PCI sponsor. They are enthusiastic advocates for the precast concrete industry.

CEG is a premier specialty engineering firm with nearly 60 years of industry experience providing precast concrete engineering solutions that enhance infrastructure and construction projects across diverse sectors. CEG is a major supporter of PCI. More than 20 CEG employees are Leadership

PCI alumni, and firm members more than 100 positions on PCI committees.

This award is presented each year to associate members in recognition of significant contributions to PCI and our industry over a period of years.

Sorensen receives 2025 Bertolini award

Jim Sorensen, president and CEO of EnCon United in Denver, Colo., received the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award in recognition of his outstanding character as a precast concrete professional in February at the 2025 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind.

Sorensen attended Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he earned a bachelor of science degree in collective bargaining in 1975 and an MBA in 1976. He passed the certified public accountant exam in the



Jim Sorensen

2025 PCI MARKETING AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The PCI Company Marketing Achievement Award and the PCI Individual Marketing Achievement Award recognize both organization expertise and individual brilliance, spotlighting visionary marketers, exceptional campaigns, and forward-thinking strategies that leverage the power of marketing to revolutionize the precast concrete industry. These awards not only recognize past achievements but also serve as a catalyst,

inspiring the industry to embrace innovation, inclusiveness, and cutting-edge marketing methods. PCI is accepting nominations for these awards, to be presented September 16–20 at the 2025 PCI Committee Days in Rosemont, Ill. Nominations are due May 30, 2025, and forms are available at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Marketing.aspx>. For more information, please email questions to marketing@pci.org.

2026 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 Awards are available. The awards

will be presented February 4–6 at the 2026 PCI Convention in Kansas City, Mo., and nomination forms must be submitted by September 12, 2025. Nomination forms are available online at <https://www.pci.org/EducatorAward>. For more information about the educator awards program, contact Bekki Missaggia, education manager, at bmissaggia@pci.org.

fall of 1976 and spent the next four years working in the tax department at KPMG, an international accounting firm.

By the late 1980s, Sorenson had transitioned to brokering capital investments and corporate acquisitions. In 1991, he gained control of a bankrupt energy company, which was the initial entity in what would become EnCon.

The EnCon group of companies has subsequently expanded to include Stresscon, Atlanta Structural, Cut Art Casting Co., Concrete Products Co., EnCon Utah, EnCon Bridge, EnCon Design, EnCon Field Services, TPAC, and other acquisitions.

Sorenson's contributions to innovation in the precast concrete industry are largely attributable to his strategies of buying what the vendors were selling, imitating successful companies, and adopting ideas that seem reasonable at the time. PCI has benefited greatly from his frankness and wisdom.

Over the decades, Sorenson has served in numerous roles for PCI. For example, he was a member of the Financial Performance Committee for three years, including as chair in 1998–1999. He also chaired the Strategic Planning Committee in 2009, and he has been a consulting member of the Educational Activities Council since 2008.

Sorenson joined the PCI Board of Directors as a producer member director. He served in that role from 2004 to 2007 and became a member of the Executive Committee in 2008. He was the board chair in 2010. Additionally, Sorenson was the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees treasurer in 2008–2009, 2011, and from 2018 to 2022.

Force 2025 recipient of PCI Medal of Honor

Gregory F. Force, a leader in the precast concrete industry for four decades, was presented with the PCI Medal of Honor in February at the 2025 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind. The PCI Medal of Honor recognizes a person who has made extraordinary contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry.



Greg Force

Force has a BS in civil engineering from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., and an MBA from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. After earning his undergraduate degree, he started his engineering career at Pittsburgh–Des Moines Steel Co. in 1978. He subsequently worked for Brown Steel Contractors Inc., Taylor Iron Works and Supply Co., Macon Prestressed Concrete Co., and Finrock Industries before joining Tindall Corp. as a sales engineer in 1988. During the next 36 years, Force rose through the ranks at Tindall, serving as engineering manager, vice president and general manager, president and chief operating officer, and, finally, president and chief executive officer. He retired from the latter position in June 2024.

Throughout his storied career, Force has worked extensively on PCI committees. He is a former chair of the Industry Handbook,

2025 SIDNEY FREEDMAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD CALL FOR ENTRIES

>> PCI is accepting entries for the 2025 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. Launched in 2012, the award recognizes PCI-certified plants for excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast or glass-fiber-reinforced concrete structures and individual components. Any kind, size, or type of structure and/or element may be entered.

Judging is based on success in overcoming

obstacles to production, solutions to formwork or finishing challenges, and quality of individual units. Therefore, entries should include source documents, shop drawings, production photos as well as finished project photos to fully demonstrate the complex solutions implemented for the project.

For more information, visit <http://www.pci.org/SFCA>. The deadline for all entries is June 2, 2025.

PCI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

>> The PCI Research and Development Council is soliciting applications for the 2025/26 Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowships and the Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship programs. The fellowship awards consist of grants of up to \$50,000 and are anticipated to advance the precast concrete industry through the financial support of graduate engineering students and re-

search. Ancillary award benefits include engaging faculty in the precast concrete industry, introducing students to the benefits of precast concrete, and connecting students, faculty, and PCI members for future networking opportunities.

Applications are due August 11, 2025. Complete information is available at <https://www.pci.org/Fellowships>.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

>> February 4, 2025, was a brisk winter day in Indianapolis, Ind., as 34 students and more than 20 guests sat on the edges of their seats in a banquet room at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown anxiously awaiting the project reveal for Project Precast 2025.

Matt Shea, assistant professor of architecture at University of Colorado Denver and developer of the 2025 Project Precast project design, held everyone's attention as he methodically introduced what the students would be designing for the next 48 hours: an integrated parking facility for the Indianapolis Zoo, which also houses an aquarium and botanical garden. After laying out the design criteria, specifications, and rules, it was go time. The competition, with eight teams of architecture, engineering, construction management, and concrete industry management students, was off and running.

After a brief preplanning session with their precast concrete industry coaches, the teams boarded a bus to take a tour of the proposed site at the Indianapolis Zoo. There, they were able to gain a better understanding of the need for the parking facility, become inspired by the surroundings, and begin to formulate an overall design theme. Teams formulated their initial design ideas and collaborated among their members across disciplines on the bus ride back to the hotel.

This year's teams were Team CEG (Consulting Engineers Group), Team Clark Pacific, Team Coreslab, Team Gate, Team Metromont, Team Northeast Precast, Team Tindall, and Team Wells. Coaches from each sponsor company were permitted to work with their team during certain hours of the two-day competition. The teams worked feverishly through the night and into the early hours of the morning. On day two, you could feel the pressure as you entered the Project Precast workroom. Watching students from 19 universities, most of whom did not know each other prior to starting the design competition, working together as one team was a powerful sight.



Ray Clark
PCI Foundation
Executive Director

Then it was time. It was time for the teams to submit their design and prepare for presenting on the afternoon of February 6. In front of a crowd of more than 200 industry professionals, each team made their design pitch while a panel of judges evaluated and scored them. It's always amazing to see what students can imagine and design in such a short span of time. This year was no exception. All eight presentations were unique and inspiring, but there could only be two winners: one overall winner chosen by the judges and a People's Choice winner selected by secret ballot.

While audience votes were tallied, the judges convened to make their selection. For the first time in Project Precast history, the same team was voted as the overall and People's Choice winner. Drumroll please ... Team Tindall swept both categories.

Northern Arizona University's Payton Correia, who competed on Team Northeast Precast, was selected as the 2025 recipient of the Laura Bennett Wow Award. The Wow Award is presented to the student that is a standout throughout the competition. The students from Team Tindall were Rosalyn Becicka from Iowa State University, Matthew McDonald from Clemson University, Mohamed Othman from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Anastasia Silva from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Congratulations to Team Tindall and Payton Correia for your achievements at Project Precast 2025, and congratulations to all of the students and coaches for making this year's Project Precast another resounding success.

A big thank you is owed to Sika Corp., the overall sponsor, and Hamilton Form, the People's Choice sponsor, for their continued support of Project Precast. These two companies have been involved since the beginning. Thank you, Paul Ramsburg (Sika Corp.) and Bob Mills (Hamilton Form) for your tireless efforts to make Project Precast what it is today.

Planning for Project Precast 2026 is already underway. We have interest from several PCI member companies to become the newest team sponsors. Does that mean we will have 10 teams competing next year? Stay tuned to find out.

Parking Structures, and Justice Facilities Committees, and he was also a member of the Plant Certification, Connection Details, Journal Advisory, Fire, and Building Code Committees. In addition, he served on the Technical Activities Council from 1993 to 1999 and the Research and Development Council from 2013 to 2023, taking the role of chair from 2018 to 2022. He has contributed to several PCI publications, including *Design and Typical Details of Connections for Precast and Prestressed Concrete* (MNL 123-88), "State of the Art of Precast/Prestressed Sandwich Wall Panels," *Recommended Practice for the Design and Construction of Precast, Prestressed Concrete Parking Structures* (MNL 129-98, all PCI Certificate of Merit winners, and the seventh edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* (MNL 120-10), a Leslie D. Martin Award of Merit winner.

Force first served on the PCI Board of Directors in 2002/2003. Subsequently, he was a PCI Executive Committee member from 2010 to 2013, serving as chair of the PCI Board of Directors in 2012. Force was on the PCI Foundation Board

of Trustees from 2011 to 2023 and was the chair of the PCI Foundation board from 2021 to 2023. In 2002, Force was elected PCI Fellow, and he was named a PCI Titan in 2014. In 2018, he received the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award.

PCI Mid-Atlantic names marketing, event coordinator

Dawn Decker, executive director of PCI Mid-Atlantic, and the PCI Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors have welcomed Owen Snyder as their new marketing and event coordinator. Snyder will amplify and expand upon digital marketing and promotional tactics previously implemented by an outside agency. He will also collaborate



Owen Snyder

2026 PCI FELLOWS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> The PCI Fellows recognition is awarded to individuals who embrace the values of the institute, who have provided continuous outstanding contributions to the U.S. precast concrete industry, and who have demonstrated exceptional service to PCI.

Service to the industry may be considered in the areas of education, research, design, and/or production. PCI is accepting nominations for PCI

Fellows, to be presented February 2-6, 2026, at the 2026 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Kansas City, Mo. Nominations are being accepted through July 31, 2025. The criteria for this award and the nomination form are available online at https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI_Fellows. For more information, contact Tracy Holloway, PCI's administrative assistant, at tholloway@pci.org.

2024/25 BIG BEAM CONTEST CALL FOR ENTRIES

>> The PCI Student Education Committee is inviting entries from students to participate in the Engineering Student Design (Big Beam) Competition for the 2024/25 academic year. Each student team must work with a PCI producer member to build a precast/prestressed concrete beam that is 20 ft long. The beams will be tested and prizes

awarded for best performance in the stated areas. Students must discuss both the structural design and the concrete mixture proportions for the beam. For more information, visit <https://www.pci.org/BigBeam>. Interest forms must be submitted by May 30, 2025, and final reports are due to PCI by June 13, 2025.

2026 PCI MEDAL OF HONOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> The PCI Medal of Honor award was established to honor a person who has made extraordinary contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry. The nominees for the Medal of Honor shall have made a highly significant contribution to the precast concrete structures industry and shall have demonstrated a sincere continuing interest in the institute. The award will be presented at

the 2026 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Kansas City, Mo., February 2-6, 2026. Visit https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI_Medal_of_Honor for more information and nomination criteria. Nominations are being accepted through July 31, 2025, and should be sent to Tracy Holloway, PCI's administrative assistant, at tholloway@pci.org.

closely with members to create and promote new project profiles and other marketing content, manage the chapter's website, and identify educational opportunities directed at key stakeholders in the region's six-state area.

"I'm very proud to be joining PCI Mid-Atlantic and look forward to contributing to the continued development and promotion of the precast concrete industry, engaging with our members, stakeholders, and industry-leaders to open new opportunities and dialogues," Snyder says. "I hope to make a tangible impact from day one, driving thought-leadership, member-relations, and beyond. I also want to give a special thanks to Dawn Decker for orchestrating this exciting and important position."

Snyder comes to PCI Mid-Atlantic with both agency and client-side marketing experience, having previously worked in software and service industries as a project manager and marketing specialist. He earned a bachelor of science degree in strategic communications and media studies from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Team Tindall wins Project Precast

The Project Precast 2025 project was to design an integrated parking facility at the Indianapolis Zoo, which also houses an aquarium and botanical garden.



Students work on their Project Precast 2025 submission on February 4, 2025, at the PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind. Courtesy of PCI Foundation.

Eight teams of students had just 48 hours to research, collaborate on a design, write a one-page summary, prepare a PowerPoint presentation, and present their final design to an audience of more than 200 PCI convention attendees who packed the meeting room February 6 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Team Tindall took both the overall award and the People's Choice Award. Payton Correia, from Northern Arizona University and a member of Team Northeast Precast, was selected as the 2025 recipient of the Laura Bennett Wow Award. The Wow Award is presented to the student that is a standout throughout the competition.

2026 MARIO J. BERTOLINI LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> To honor the legacy of Mario J. Bertolini, an icon of the precast concrete industry, PCI established the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award. Bertolini was president of a major precast concrete manufacturer for many years and chairman of PCI in 1989. The award will be presented February 2-6, 2026, at the 2026 PCI Convention at

the Precast Show in Kansas City, Mo. Nominations are being accepted through July 31, 2025. The criteria for this award and the nomination form are available at https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Mario_J_Bertolini_Award. For more information, contact Tracy Holloway, PCI's administrative assistant, at tholloway@pci.org.

2025 T. HENRY CLARK AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> Nominations for the T. Henry Clark Award, to be presented at 2025 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 16-20, at Loews Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill., should be submitted to qualityprograms@pci.org by June 1, 2025. The T. Henry Clark Award nomination form is available at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Clark>.

The T. Henry Clark Award was established to recognize an individual, group of individuals, or firm that has delivered a resource that improves

or enhances the quality of precast concrete products or processes.

T. Henry Clark believed in quality and quality processes, and this award is to recognize those who create or promote quality in a way that would have made him proud.

For more information, contact Mike Wolff, the PCI Quality Activities Council chair, at mike@basin-precast.com or Bartlomiej Krol, PCI managing director of quality programs, at bkrol@pci.org.

Sika Corp. was the title sponsor, and Hamilton Form was the People's Choice Award sponsor.

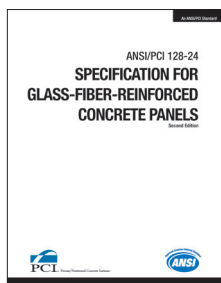
They included Liffort Hobley, president of the NFL Alumni Dallas chapter; Larry Mallory, an NFL Alumni member who played for the New York Giants; David Welber, vice president of Turner Construction Co.; Gary Wildung, founding partner of FDG; and Matt Shea, from the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning.

ANSI/PCI 128-24 for GFRC now available in bookstore

PCI has released the updated ANSI/PCI 128-24, which build on ANSI/PCI 128-19. This second edition of ANSI/PCI 128-24 *Specification for GFRC Panels* provides minimum requirements for the design, manufacture, and installation of glass-fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) panels.

The standard was developed by the GFRC Committee. The Edward Knowles is the committee's chair, Jimmy Lee is vice chair, and the task group included Brent Crenshaw, Michael Paris, Nicholas Smiderle, and Mathew Offenber.

Visit <https://www.pci.org/bookstore> to purchase ANSI/PCI 128-24.



PCI honors members, welcomes new chair, board at latest convention

PCI held a successful and busy 2025 PCI Convention February 4 through 7 in Indianapolis, Ind., highlighted by welcoming Carlos Cerna as the new PCI board chair, honoring members, and holding a variety of special events. More than 1000 members attended, an increase over 2024 and continuing the strong attendance of recent years.

In addition to the many meetings and education sessions, members attended networking events, including the 2025 PCI Design Awards Cocktail Reception, the Women in Precast Luncheon, and a reception recognizing the 20th anniversary of Leadership PCI (LPCI).

PCI member companies staffed booths at the annual PCI Student Job Fair, which attracted many college students who are seeking careers in the precast concrete industry. "This was another successful PCI Convention and The Precast Show, with both boasting record-breaking registration," says Cerna, president and CEO of Manco Structures in Schertz, Tex. "It was great to feel the enthusiasm and optimism that dominated

throughout the events. Many thanks to all attendees, vendors, and especially those folks behind the scenes who worked hard to make the PCI Convention and The Precast Show a reality."

Lloyd Kennedy, executive vice president of engineering of Finrock Industries, joined the PCI Board of Directors as secretary/treasurer. The eight others elected as new board members are Bryan Campbell of Clark Pacific, Dawn Decker of PCI Mid-Atlantic, Jason Lien of EnCon United, Jim Parkins of Concrete Technology Corp., A. J. Sassaman of JVI Inc., Steve Schweitzer of Fabcon Cos. LLC, Vern Smith of Coreslab Structures (TAMPA) Inc., and Jason Woodard of Metromont LLC.

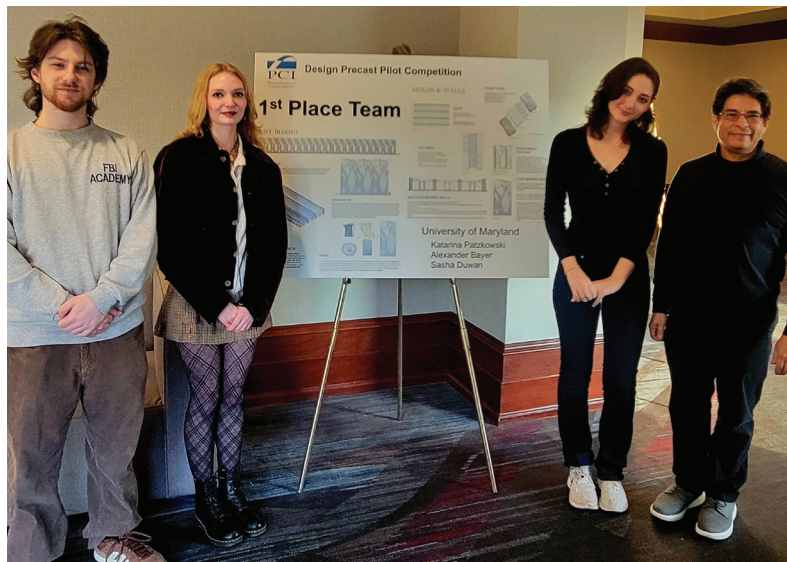
One highlight of the week was the PCI Annual Members Meeting and Luncheon, during which PCI recognized award recipients for their outstanding contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry.

The 2026 PCI Convention will be held February 2 through 6 in Kansas City, Mo.

Maryland team captures first place in PCI Design Precast Competition

The PCI Design Precast pilot competition was a rousing success, with a three-student team from the University of Maryland in College Park winning first place. The competition's goal is to equip architecture students with the knowledge and ability to design a resilient enclosure system using architectural precast concrete.

The winning team in the 2024 PCI Design Precast competition presented their project at the 2025 PCI Convention. From left are students Alexander Bayer, Katarina Patzkowski, and Sasha Duwan and associate professor of architecture at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., Michael Carlos Barrios Kleiss.



This is the first PCI competition aimed specifically at collegiate architecture students who are interested in designing with precast concrete. The PCI 2024 Design Precast competition focused on aesthetic design solutions that conform to the fictitious building owner's design needs and precast concrete production processes. The teams were tasked with designing a total–precast concrete data center with an artistic theme representative of the culture of Indianapolis, Ind.

The top three teams presented their projects in February at the 2025 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis. Those teams were from the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The first place team's building pays homage to the Union Station transportation hub in Indianapolis. The columns on both sides of the building emulate train tracks running across the building to create a sense of connection and continuation. "The biggest thing for me was opening my eyes to what precast concrete, or concrete in general, can do," says Alexander Bayer, a member of the winning team. "When you start, you think it's just concrete, until you realize what you can do with it. It's like adult Legos. Everyone has fun with those!"

Second place went to Zeina Elchayeb and Oleksandra Poddubska, and third place went to Brenda Benitez, Wanjiru Duncan, and Daniel Zuniga.

Carlos Barrios Kleiss, associate professor of architecture at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., spearheaded the competition in its first year. "I always thought that an architectural competition would be a wonderful opportunity to bring together precast concrete producers with our students," Barrios Kleiss says. "The competition focuses on the artistic impression architectural precast concrete contributes to our skylines."

The 2025 PCI Design Precast Competition opens on June 1.

PCI Educator of the Year Award goes to Myers

John Myers, a professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in Rolla and director of the Missouri Center for Transportation Innovation, is the recipient of the 2025 PCI Educator of the Year Award. The PCI Educator of the Year Award is intended to recognize an educator who has made a singular yet truly exceptional contribution to education or a contribution to the educational mission of PCI.

A member of the Missouri S&T faculty since 1999, Myers developed the university's architectural engineering undergrad-



John Myers

uate program when he was an assistant professor, and he served as an associate dean for academic affairs from 2015 to 2019. In 2019 and 2020, Myers played a leadership role during the formation of the Summer Engineering Research Academy program, which brings rising seniors from historically Black colleges and universities to Missouri S&T in an effort to expand the diversity of the graduate student population.

Prior to becoming an educator, Myers worked as a structural design and project engineer, and this industry experience has informed his teaching approach, which emphasizes active learning techniques, such as in-class exercises, hands-on activities, ongoing laboratory research, and field visits to construction sites. He has also been an advisor to Missouri S&T student teams participating in the Big Beam Competition.

Missouri S&T has recognized Myers's impact as an instructor with nine faculty excellence awards—a record for his department and college.

Myers has been involved with PCI since 1997. He is currently the chair of the Journal Awards Committee and serves on the Student Education Committee, among other committees. He is an accomplished researcher who has authored or coauthored around 100 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to numerous technical publications and textbooks.

Myers earned his master of science and doctorate degrees in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and has a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from Pennsylvania State University in University Park.

PCI presented the award to Myers in February at the 2025 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind.

Zatar takes home Distinguished Educator Award

Wael Zatar, a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., is the recipient of the 2025 PCI Distinguished Educator Award. This award recognizes his significant contributions to the advancement of PCI's educational mission, his dedication to his students, and his support of other educators.

Zatar is a past dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, a founding director of both the Encova Center for Engineering and Safety and the Center for Corrosion Research and Nondestructive Testing, and a previous director of the Appalachian Transportation Institute, all at Marshall University. Before he joined the Marshall faculty in 2006, Zatar taught at West Virginia University Institute of Technology in Beckley, the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and Saitama University in Japan.



Wael Zatar

Zatar has developed comprehensive engineering courses on precast concrete, including courses on prestressed and reinforced concrete design and transportation sustainability. For two decades, Zatar has played a key role in PCI's educational efforts. He has been a member of the Student Education Committee since 2006 and currently serves as the committee chair. He also serves on the Educational Activities Council, the Continuing Education Committee, and the Online Academy Committee, as well as the Research and Development Council and several research and technical committees. Zatar has led efforts to update PCI's Prestressed-in-a-Box, a series of presentations that helps university instructors integrate prestressed concrete concepts into their curriculums, and the Professor Teaching Materials, which offer content for a full-semester course on prestressed concrete. He is a judge of the Big Beam Competition and a member of the task force to launch a similar student competition for architectural precast concrete.

Zatar earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Cairo University in Egypt and his doctorate in civil engineering from Saitama University. He is an alumnus of Leadership PCI, a past recipient of the PCI Educator of the Year Award, and a PCI Fellow.

PCI Fellows recognized at 2025 convention

The PCI Board of Directors recently named seven members PCI Fellows, honoring them for outstanding contributions to PCI and to the precast concrete structures industry. The new PCI Fellows are Sameh Badie, Bohdan Kuznir, Gary Lentz, Mark McKeny, Nancy Peterson, Bruce Russell, and Rokhsana Taghizadeh. They were recognized in March at the PCI Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon during the 2025 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind.

Badie is a professor of structural engineering in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1997 and has been a professional member of PCI since 1998. Badie is a coauthor of many of PCI's flagship publications, including the first and second editions of the *PCI Bridge Design Manual*, the *State-of-the-Art Report on Full-Depth Precast Concrete Bridge Deck Panels*, PCI–Federal Highway Administration eLearning courses, and the forthcoming ninth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. He is currently an active voting member of the PCI Industry Handbook Committee and the PCI Journal Awards Committee. He also served as a voting member on the Bridges and Student



Sameh Badie

Education Committees for many years. Badie has received many PCI awards, including the Leslie D. Martin Award of Merit, which recognizes a PCI-published document judged to be technically outstanding and worthy of special commendation, and the Martin P. Korn Award, which recognizes an author or authors for the best design/research/state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete used in buildings and other structures published in *PCI Journal* during a single year. PCI gave the Young Educator Award to Badie in 2012 to recognize his academic activities at George Washington University. Specifically, Badie developed six courses about precast concrete, including courses on prestressed concrete structures, prestressed concrete bridges, and segmental post-tensioned bridges. Badie's research in the area of developing and promoting full-depth precast concrete bridge deck panel systems is as remarkable as his accomplishments as an educator. His research work led to an increase in the shear connector spacing for composite slab/beam construction from 24 to 48 in. (610 to 1220 mm).

Kuznir is the primary owner and CEO of Precast Services, a PCI-certified erector based in Twinsburg, Ohio, that specializes in the erection of architectural and structural precast concrete components for parking garages, exterior building facades, interior decorative panels, athletic stadiums, control towers, prisons, and more. Among the company's notable projects is the Statue of Liberty Museum in New York, N.Y. Kuznir began his career when he enlisted in the Army Corp of Engineers in 1990. He served mainly as a reservist combat engineer/bridge crew member working with explosives and erecting prefabricated bridges. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in University Park in 1996 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. He subsequently worked as a sales engineer, first for Contech Construction Products and then for Fabcon. He was a project manager and director of project management for High Concrete Group from 2003 to 2007, leading the company's expansion on the East Coast. In 2007, he joined Precast Services as Eastern operations manager and led a management buyout of the firm. Kuznir has been contributing to PCI for almost two decades. An alumnus of Leadership PCI, he currently serves as co-chair of the Erectors Committee and is a member of the Business Performance Council, the Erector Certification Committee, the Field Safety Task Group, the Safeguarding Impartiality Committee, and the Terminology Harmonization Task Group. He is also currently an associate member director on the PCI Board of Directors, having previously served as a board member from 2010 to 2014. Kuznir's colleagues are particularly appreciative of his work on *Erection Safety for Precast and Prestressed Concrete* (MNL 132) and the *Erector's Manual* (MNL 127), calling him the "driving force" behind the current revision of MNL 127.



Bohdan Kuznir

Lentz is a dedicated and experienced senior structural engineer at Metromont Corp. in Greenville, S.C. He has a bachelor of science in civil engineering technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, where he focused on structural engineering. Since joining Metromont in 2010, Lentz has progressed through various roles and contributed significantly to research, development, and compliance with industry standards. Currently, he provides vital engineering support during the bid phase of projects, collaborating closely with the sales and estimating departments to deliver innovative precast concrete solutions that meet client needs. He previously served as engineering manager and engineering group leader, overseeing day-to-day operations and mentoring engineering staff members. A PCI member since 2005, Lentz has served on several PCI committees. He has been a member of the Precast Insulated Wall Panels Committee since 2008, serving as vice chair from 2015 to 2018 and as chair from 2018 to 2024. He is also a member of the Fire, QA Supplier, FRP Composites, and Design Standard Committees. For the latter committee, he was also chair of the Insulated Wall Panels Task Group. He also serves on and is a past chair of the AltusGroup Technical Committee. Lentz also contributes to the precast concrete community by serving as a mentor for the PCI Foundation's Project Precast competition and supporting educational initiatives at Kennesaw State University in Georgia through a PCI Foundation Precast Studio. Lentz has received multiple honors for his contributions to the industry, including the Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit for his work on the *Specification for Fire Resistance of Precast and Prestressed Concrete* (PCI 124) and the *Specification for the Design of Precast Concrete Insulated Wall Panels* (ANSI/PCI 150).



Gary Lentz

McKeney has served as director of business development at Dura-Stress in Orlando, Fla., since 2018. In 1998, he earned a BS in industrial technology from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales and began his career as a network administrator and drafter for Coreslab Structures in Arizona. At Coreslab, he subsequently transitioned to marketing and sales, specializing in the design and development of bridges, parking structures, multiuse residential, office buildings, sports facilities, warehouses, industrial buildings, and food manufacturing facilities. McKeney is well known in the industry for his approach of not only selling customers on using precast concrete and converting structural systems for their projects but also drawing and providing the schematic models himself. Since moving to Florida in 2003, McKeney has been directly involved in the design and construction of more than 120 parking garages. He has presented more than 250 American Institute of Architects



Mark McKeney

continuing education sessions to architects in Arizona and Florida. McKeney has been active with the Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA) since 2004. He joined the PCI Marketing Council in 2007 and has served on several PCI committees, including the Marketing Communications Committee, which he chaired from 2009 to 2014; the Digital Marketing Committee, which he chaired from 2014 to 2019; and the *Ascent* Advisory Committee, which he chaired from 2022 to 2024. He is an alumnus of Leadership PCI class of 2012 and remains an avid supporter of the program. In addition, he served on the PCI Board of Directors from 2016 to 2021, representing FPCA from 2017 to 2021. McKeney's work with the Marketing Council has included the notable campaigns High Performance Precast Concrete, How Precast Builds, and Precast Protects Life. McKeney has also contributed to improving both the PCI website and *Ascent* magazine several times, and he played a critical role in shaping PCI's initial social media presence.

Peterson is a project design coordinator at EnCon Design in Denver, Colo. She attended Colorado University Boulder as an engineering major before completing her degree at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Early in her career as an engineer, Peterson worked for Brewster Consulting Engineers in San Francisco, Calif. After returning to Denver, she joined Sirko Associates, where she was introduced to precast concrete. She then worked for Leap Associates, FDG Precast Engineering, and Rocky Mountain Prestress before moving to Encon United. Peterson's knowledge of precast concrete technologies has been demonstrated on projects to design and expand multiple stadiums. She has also designed several prisons, including a supermax penitentiary and a landmark IKEA store, for which she won a Women of Influence in Commercial Real Estate Award. Peterson has been a PCI member since 1996. She was a member of the Soundwall Committee from 2000 to 2008, serving as the committee chair from 2003 to 2005. During her tenure as chair, the committee published the "Guide Specification for Reflective Precast Concrete Soundwalls." Peterson served on the Marketing Council from 2005 to 2015. She has also served on the Professional Members, Codes, and Journal Advisory Committees, among others. Peterson served on the PCI Board of Directors in 2004/2005. She has been a member of the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees since 2023 and currently serves as the board's vice chair. Being a member of the PCI Foundation's board is a particularly fitting role for Peterson, as she is a committed advocate for educational opportunities for students and younger professionals in the precast concrete industry. She is a member of Concrete Chefs, the group of PCI members who host and cook an annual fundraising dinner for the PCI Foundation.



Nancy Peterson

Russell is an award-winning educator, researcher, and author. A native Oklahoman with family roots in Indian Territory, he has spent most of his career in his home state. Russell previously served on the faculty of University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman and is currently a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater. At OU, he was twice given the George W. Tauxe Outstanding Professor Award, and at OSU, he was named as an honorary chapter member of Chi Epsilon, the national honor society for civil engineering. Russell has mentored more than 40 graduate students. Many of them have followed in his footsteps by teaching and performing research in concrete materials and prestressed concrete. Russell has been a PCI member for 34 years. He is a member of the Bridges Committee and the Prestressing Reinforcement Committee. He served on the Technical Advisory Council for several years and chaired PCI's first Strand Bond Task Force. As an educator and researcher, Russell draws from his field experiences. Before his academic career began, he worked as a civil engineer, structural engineer, chief field engineer, and site manager on multi-million-dollar heavy industrial construction projects. Russell is nationally known for his work on strand bond. He and his students, working in concert with both PCI and North American strand producers, developed the standard test for strand bond that became ASTM A1081, *Standard Test for Evaluating the Bond of Seven Wire Steel Prestressing Strands*. He is also well known for developing innovative prestressed concrete bridge designs. Since 1997, more than 800 bridges have been built in Oklahoma using concepts, design methods, and reinforcing details that were first employed on two sets of bridges that Russell designed. Russell's work, along with that of his students,



Bruce Russell

has facilitated the widespread adoption of high-performance and high-strength concrete in Oklahoma. Russell has won several awards from PCI in recognition of his research, including the Martin P. Korn and George D. Nasser awards for articles he contributed to the *PCI Journal*.

Taghizadeh has worked in the precast concrete industry since 2007, beginning as an engineering intern at FDG Inc. in Arvada, Colo., while she was a student at the University of Colorado. She is currently an associate principal at AG&E Associates in Dallas, Tex., where she manages a team of 28 engineers and drafters. Taghizadeh first joined PCI as a student member and has been an active PCI member since 2013. After participating in Leadership PCI in 2015, she joined several PCI committees and quickly gained a reputation for being a proactive champion for cutting-edge initiatives. For example, Taghizadeh urged PCI to take a leadership role in promoting diversity in the precast concrete industry, and she became the Diversity Committee's initial chair. Similarly, she recently identified the need for a PCI committee or group dedicated to the design of data centers, and after the Technical Activities Council (TAC) approved the proposal, she became the first chair of the new Data Center Task Group. Taghizadeh also currently serves on the Leadership PCI, Design Standards, Industry Handbook, and Professional Member Committees. Previously, she was a member of the Joints and Connections, Insulated Wall Panels, and Student Education Committees. She has also participated in PCI Foundation Studios and has served as a judge for the PCI Design Awards program. Taghizadeh's peers praise her for her technical expertise and her commitment to the industry.



**Rokhsana
Taghizadeh**

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

Levels I and II	May 14–16, 2025 June 16–19, 2025 August 4–7, 2025 October 22–24, 2025 November 17–20, 2025	Chicago, Ill. online online Nashville, Tenn. online
Level III	May 13–16, 2025 July 14–17, 2025 October 21–24, 2025 December 8–11, 2025	Chicago, Ill. online Nashville, Tenn. online
Certified Field Auditor	August 25–28, 2025	online
Certified Company Auditor	August 29, 2025	online

PCI's CALENDAR

Events

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

PCI Productivity Tour Hyatt Austin, Austin, Tex.	May 5-8, 2025
PCI Northeast Spring Meeting Simsbury, Conn.	May 14-15, 2025
PCI Central Region Spring Meeting Louisville, Ky.	May 14-16, 2025
Leadership PCI Spring Workshop Doubletree, Rosemont, Ill.	May 14-16, 2025
PCI West Summer Board Meeting Woodland, Calif.	May 21, 2025
PCI TechnoQuest Sweden and Finland	May 25-30, 2025
Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association Summer Meeting Location TBD	May 29-30, 2025
PCI Mountain States Summer Meeting Salt Lake City, Utah	June 11-12, 2025
Georgia/Carolinas PCI Annual Meeting Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.	June 11-13, 2025
PCI/NPCA Joint Committee Meeting Hotel Emma, San Antonio, Tex.	June 17, 2025
PCI Board of Directors Meeting Hotel Emma, San Antonio, Tex.	June 18-20, 2025
PCI Gulf South Summer Meeting Fort Walton Beach, Fla.	July 10-12, 2025
PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin Summer Summit Lake Geneva, Wis.	July 16-18, 2025
Marketing & Sales School 2.0 Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, Ill.	July 16-18, 2025
Florida Prestressed Concrete Association Summer Meeting Coral Gables, Fla.	July 24-27, 2025
APC Production Manager Summit Rosemont, Ill.	July 29-30, 2025
PCI Central Regional Summer Event Chattanooga, Tenn.	July 30-August 1, 2025
PCI Mid-Atlantic Membership Meeting Gettysburg, Pa.	August 7-8, 2025
PCI Design Awards Judging Westin O'Hare, Chicago, Ill.	August 14-15, 2025
CEO Summit Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, Ill.	August 26-27, 2025
PCI Northeast Fall Meeting Lake Placid, N.Y.	October 1-2, 2025

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