



Educating the next generation on precast concrete

At the recent ACI Convention in Toronto, ON, Canada, I had the opportunity to meet a young professor from my alma mater, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He recently completed his doctorate and is new to the faculty. One of his duties will be teaching prestressed concrete in future semesters. I was excited about pointing him to the PCI website and all the materials we have developed to help professors. He was especially interested in the recently added PCI Professor's 13-week Teaching Materials, designed as a semesterlong curriculum on precast concrete. I also encouraged him to get involved with PCI committees and to network with the many academic professional members at PCI and told him about the upcoming Professors Conference sponsored by the PCI Foundation and PCI.

I relay this story to demonstrate the level of commitment PCI, and the PCI Foundation have to reaching the next generation of design professionals about the design and construction of precast and precast, prestressed concrete. In February at the 2025 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind., we had 140 students attend from 37 different schools. We also had 62 academics from 44 different universities. Many of these professors are members of different PCI committees, helping to serve the student community and advance our body of knowledge.

For more than 20 years, the PCI Foundation has taught thousands of students through the curriculum grant programs, known as precast studios. These programs, most of them in cooperation with our PCI chapters and partner organizations, reach out to engineering, architecture, and construction management programs. Project Precast was once again a huge success at the convention, with eight teams each consisting of two architecture students, an engineering student, and a construction management student. After two intense days of design work, each team's presentation was truly impressive. Congratulations to team Tindall, which swept all of the awards, the first time that has happened.

PCI and the PCI Foundation remain deeply committed to the goal of educating the next generation. This spring, as PCI members go through the annual membership and certification process, please consider making a voluntary contribution to the PCI Foundation, especially at the suggested level or more. Our future literally depends on it. 



Bob Risser, PE
PCI President and CEO