

## Looking ahead in 2018

2017 was a tumultuous year for just about everyone—both for the nation and for PCI. Setting aside what's been in the news, we'll just stick to PCI.

We had a number of additions to PCI staff in 2017 that I've welcomed in previous messages, with two more in November and December.

First, I want to take this opportunity to welcome Michael Kesselmayr to the PCI staff as managing director, quality programs. Mike joined PCI in mid-November after 37 years with the testing firm Professional Service Industries (PSI), most recently as vice president in the Chicago area office, a position he held since 1990. He has more than 20 years of service and has held leadership roles in ASTM committees, the Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory, and as chairman of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation. As managing director, Mike will lead the certification staff, serve as the staff liaison with the Quality Activities Council, and help represent PCI and its certification programs with outside organizations, such as ASTM and the AASHTO community.

December 1, PCI welcomed longtime precast concrete industry and PCI member Jon Grafton to the PCI staff as director of operations services. Jon comes to PCI with more than 30 years of experience in the precast/prestressed concrete industry with a number of producer members, most recently with Oldcastle Precast. Jon has been a member of several PCI committees, most recently serving as chair of the Transportation Activities Council and on the PCI Board of Directors. Jon will serve as the staff liaison to the Business Performance Council, where his precast concrete operations experience will be a great benefit in leading productivity, erector, and safety efforts at PCI. Jon's background and experience will allow him to assist on transportation-related activities as well.

Looking ahead, 2018 is shaping up to be an important year in the future of PCI. In late November, the PCI Board of Directors met in Chicago for a very successful strategic planning session. It discussed the mission, vision, and key goals for the organization and objectives for those goals.

Although the plan is still in draft form, I'm pleased to report that the meeting resulted in identifying four strategic goals for PCI for the next three to five years: marketing and advocacy, codes and standards, research and development, and workforce development/operations. While not specifically identified, it is expected that education will be a significant strategy for each of the goals and will include close coordination with the PCI Foundation on education efforts. PCI will also continue to maintain the industry body of knowledge as well as the quality programs that are so recognized in the marketplace. In the weeks ahead, the PCI staff and the board will be working to finalize strategies and objectives in these goal areas and attach staff needs and cost estimates necessary to achieve the goals in the strategic plan. The board intends to finalize the plan at its meeting during the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Denver, Colo., at the end of February. These plans will have an impact on budget discussions heading into the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

I wish you all a happy new year and a safe and prosperous 2018!

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