

Trygestad named new technical services vice president

Amy Trygestad has joined PCI as the technical services vice president. In this role, she serves as PCI's primary technical representative, overseeing the development, review, and dissemination of technical knowledge for the precast concrete industry and specifying entities.

Trygestad supports the Technical Activities Council in maintaining the credibility and consistency of technical information for the industry through strategic document development and critical, in-depth review processes. She also advises and assists the Research and Development Council in setting strategic direction for identifying research needs. In addition, she supports and advises the director of codes and standards in the strategic development of pertinent standards and ensures compliance with the American National Standards Institute-accredited PCI standardization process. Trygestad represents PCI on committees of the American Concrete Institute (ACI), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Building Seismic Safety Council, Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, *fib*, and other leading organizations.

With more than 25 years of experience in the concrete industry, Trygestad comes to PCI from the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), where she was vice president of engineering. While at CRSI, she assisted in the development of new CRSI standards to further building requirements that are supportive to the steel reinforced concrete industry and was instrumental in the 2021 *International Building Code* adoption of the prescriptive inclusion of flat plate voided concrete slab assemblies. Prior to CRSI, Trygestad was the president and principal engineer at Chase Engineering and served as the central United States regional engineering manager for the Portland Cement Association.



Amy Trygestad

An ACI Fellow since 2014, Trygestad actively serves on 318 Structural Concrete Building Code, 423 Prestressed Concrete, 421 Reinforced Slabs, and 132 Responsibility in Concrete Construction. She previously served on 301 Specifications for Concrete Construction.

Trygestad is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in structural engineering from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

PCI names Ketron sustainability director

PCI has named Thomas Ketron as its director of sustainability. In this new position for PCI, Ketron will be the staff liaison to the PCI Sustainability Committee and its subcommittees, as well as serve as a representative to other industry groups and organizations on sustainability and resiliency issues.

"I'm thrilled to join the PCI staff and its dedicated members in furthering our industry's commitment to a more sustainable future," Ketron says. "I think this is a future where precast concrete will thrive, bringing more innovation, greater resource efficiency, and more reliable and resilient prefabricated solutions for the construction industry."

Ketron most recently held sales roles with GATEe Precast and NAPCO Precast in Texas and was owner of Firehorse Communications, a brand and marketing consulting agency for North American precast concrete companies. Before that, he was director of marketing and strategic communications from 2003 to 2020 for Clark Pacific in West Sacramento, Calif. He served on PCI's Marketing Council for many years and has been involved in PCI's Sustainability Committee since its founding in 2007.

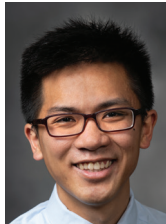
Ketron is a LEED accredited professional and has bachelor's and master's degrees in history and German literature from the University of California, Berkeley.



Thomas Ketron

Korn Award goes to Six Authors

The 2024 Martin P. Korn Award was presented to Shane Oh, Lily Pearson, Mark P. Manning, Jon Mohle, Brad D. Weldon, and Yahya C. Kurama for their paper “Experimental Investigation of a Novel Reinforced Concrete Buckling-Restrained Brace,” published in the November–December 2023 issue of *PCI Journal*. The Korn Award recognizes an author, or authors, for the best design, research, or state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete in the area of buildings and other structures appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.



Shane Oh



Lily Pearson



Mark Manning



Jon Mohle



Brad Weldon



Yahya Kurama

This paper describes an experimental investigation of a novel precast concrete buckling-restrained brace through lateral load testing of one-third-length-scaled isolated diagonal brace subassemblies. The experimental results are compared with design and numerical model predictions from a previous study of the brace to determine the validity of modeling assumptions, develop design improvements, and determine future research needs. This research was conducted with the sponsorship of PCI under a Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowship.

Oh graduated from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind.; Pearson

is a project engineer at Frost Engineering & Consulting in Mishawaka, Ind.; Manning is a research scientist in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame; Mohle is a senior product and market manager at Clark Pacific in Sacramento, Calif.; Weldon is a teaching professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame; and Kurama is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame.

2024 Lyman Award goes to Chhetri and Chicchi Cross



Sandip Chhetri



Rachel Chicchi Cross

The 2024 Robert J. Lyman Award was presented to Sandip Chhetri and Rachel Chicchi Cross for their

paper “Experimental Investigation of Multiple-Strand Lifting Loops,” which was published in the May–June 2024 issue of *PCI Journal*. The Robert J. Lyman Award, named in honor of PCI’s third president, recognizes outstanding *PCI Journal* articles dealing with construction, production, and/or erection of precast concrete.

This research investigated prestressing strand loops used to lift and transfer precast concrete. Tests were conducted to determine the load-carrying capacity of prestressing strand lifting loops. Test parameters included the number of strands in the lifting loop, sleeve type, vertical offset and splaying of strands, and lifting device. Test results summarize failure modes, average peak load, ratio of peak load to ultimate strength of the strand, and peak bond. The lifting loop testing originated from a PCI Dennis R. Mertz fellowship.

Chhetri is a project engineer at SJCA Inc. in Indianapolis, Ind. He received his master’s degree and PhD from the

2025 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 at the 2025 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 16–20, at Loews Chicago O’Hare in Rosemont, Ill., and nomination forms must be submitted by July 1, 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.

Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the recipient of the 2018–2019 PCI Dennis R. Mertz Fellowship. Chicchi Cross is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management at the University of Cincinnati. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in architectural engineering degrees from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa., and her PhD in civil engineering from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Galik, Wiebe take home 2024 Nasser Award

The 2024 George D. Nasser Award was given to William D. Galik and Richard Wiebe for the paper “Lateral-Torsional-Roll Response of Long Precast Concrete



William Galik



Richard Wiebe

Girders: Uncracked Buckling Load.” This paper is based on research supported by PCI’s Daniel P. Jenny Fellowship program. It was published in the May–June 2024 issue of *PCI Journal*. The George D. Nasser award was established in 2004 to honor Nasser’s leadership as editor-in-chief of the *PCI Journal* for more than 30 years. It is given to a young author, or authors, for the best design, research, or state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.

This paper addresses lateral buckling of precast, prestressed concrete girders that are not fully restrained against twist-rotation at their ends. The analysis includes torsional deformations, which are usually neglected, for both simply supported beams and for overhangs. The results separate the effect of torsion from lateral bending and show that downward major-axis deflection improves stability, whereas net upward deflection does the opposite.

William D. Galik is a PhD candidate in the ROSE School of Earthquake Engineering within the University School for Advanced Studies at Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pavia in Pavia, Italy, and Wiebe is an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle. Coauthoring this paper was John Stanton, PhD, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Washington.

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>. Final reports are due to PCI by June 13, 2025.

IRWIN J. SPEYER YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> The Irwin J. Speyer Young Professional Engineer Award honors the legacy of Irwin J. Speyer by recognizing young professional engineers who have made significant contributions to PCI during their early careers and who demonstrate their intent to continue serving the precast concrete industry as Speyer did during his

career. The award will be presented at the 2025 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 16–20, at Loews Chicago O’Hare in Rosemont, Ill. Complete award details and the official nomination form are at <http://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Speyer-Award>. Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2025.

Zollman Award goes to Tarzav, Hart paper

The winners of the 2024 Charles C. Zollman Award were Mostafa Tazarv and Kallan Hart for their paper “Repairable Precast Concrete Bridge Columns for Seismic Events,” which was published in the May–June 2024 issue of *PCI Journal*. Their research was conducted as part of the PCI’s Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Fellowship program. The Zollman Award honors an author, or authors, for the best design, research, or state-of-the-art paper on precast concrete in the area of transportation infrastructure appearing in *PCI Journal* during a single year.

In their paper, the authors described their development of reinforced concrete bridge columns that are fully precast, low damage, and repairable through component replacement after being subjected to earthquake loads. They developed and ranked 20 repairable precast concrete alternatives. The top three candidates were designed at 50% scale, constructed, and tested.

Tazarv is an associate professor in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.Dak., and Hart is a former MS student in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at South Dakota State University. He is currently a structural engineer at DCI Engineers in Missoula, Mont.



Mostafa Tazarv



Kallan Hart

NC State University students win PCI Big Beam Contest

North Carolina State University has won the 2024 PCI Engineering Design Competition, also known as the Big Beam Contest.

The national competition, which is in its 24th year, teaches college students important structural engineering skills in an applied learning environment that will benefit them in their future professions. Teams of students and a faculty advisor design, build, and test a 20 ft (6.1 m), precast, prestressed concrete beam. Local PCI-certified precast concrete producers mentor and fabricate the beams for the teams.

Entries were judged on a variety of criteria, including the beam’s load-resisting performance in tests that simulate real-life conditions that structural building and infrastructure components must endure to ensure life safety, the quality of their analysis and reports, and a video overview of their project.

“Big Beam provided a platform for us to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in school and its practical application in the precast industry,” says Sam Valmassoi, a member of the winning team. “I was particularly excited about our use of ultra-high-performance concrete in our design and the unique challenges and opportunities that arose from using this material.”

The winning team will be recognized in February at the 2025 PCI Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

The 2023/24 Big Beam Contest was sponsored by ALP Supply and PCI’s *Aspire* magazine. Cash prizes of up to \$2000 are awarded to the top performers in efficient design, highest load capacity, and other categories.

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 Chicago, Ill., should be submitted to qualityprograms@pci.org by June 5, 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 Quality Activities Council chair, at mike@basin-precast.com or Bartlomiej Krol, PCI managing director of quality programs, at bkrol@pci.org.

To see the student videos, please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBV2K1BGaopHHM9Thk_-dfw/featured.

First place: North Carolina State University; Raleigh, N.C.

Faculty advisor: Gregory Lucier
Student team: Taylor Brodbeck, Allison Ebbert, Mohammad Gambar, and Sam Valmassoi
PCI producer: Tindall Corp.; Spartanburg, N.C.

Second place: Lehigh University; Bethlehem, Pa.

Faculty advisor: Clay Naito
Student team: Ryan Bruce, Ryder Henry, Peter Misiewicz, Taryn Ross, and Kate Springsteen
PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products; Cressona, Pa.

Third place: The University of Alabama (Team 1); Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Faculty advisor: Sriram Aaleti
Student team: Tu Luong, Chas Sanford, Bobby Bryant, Austin Castleberry, Xi Chen, and Bryce Payne
PCI producer: GATE Precast; Monroeville, Ala.

Keith Kaufman Award for Best Report: Lehigh University; Bethlehem, Pa.

Faculty advisor: Clay Naito
Student team: Ryan Bruce, Ryder Henry, Peter Misiewicz, Taryn Ross, and Kate Springsteen
PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products; Cressona, Pa.

Best Video: Lehigh University; Bethlehem, Pa.

Faculty advisor: Clay Naito
Student team: Ryan Bruce, Ryder Henry, Peter Misiewicz, Taryn Ross, and Kate Springsteen
PCI producer: Northeast Prestressed Products; Cressona, Pa.

The remaining finishers are listed in alphabetical order. All teams received awards of \$1000 and \$1250.

The University of Alabama (Team 2)

Faculty advisor: Sriram Aaleti
Team members: Abdulmaliq Alawode, Anupama Kamani, Archana Kumari, Eunice Mendes, Rodrigues Farias Mello, Kunal Mohinderu, and Shubham Sharma Gyawali
PCI producer: GATE Precast; Monroeville, Ala.

University of Minnesota Duluth; Duluth, Minn.

Faculty advisor: Abdullah Haroon
Team members: Justin Entinger, Kate McCabe, Jensen Rice, and Mehdi Faeli
PCI producer: Molin Concrete Products; Lino Lakes, Minn.

Northern Arizona University; Flagstaff, Ariz.

Faculty advisor: Ben Dymond
Team members: Mariah Boler, Kristina Finley-Encinas, and Jenna Hays
PCI producer: EnCon AZ LLC dba TPAC; Denver, Colo.

Old Dominion University; Norfolk, Va.

Faculty advisor: Michael Seek
Team members: Chris Shelton, Brendan Fritz, Jonah Joaquim, and Zack Bayliff
PCI producer: Coastal Precast Systems; Chesapeake, Va.

University of Western Ontario; London, ON, Canada

Faculty advisor: Maged A. Youssef
Team members: Jeremy Dodd, Malcolm Ahsan, Amer Sabsabi, Emma Schnurr, Francesca Devine, Timothy Kerkhoff, and Abdelmoneim Elnaggar
PCI producer: Stubbe's Precast; Harley, ON, Canada

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.

Crow Museum receives Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award

GATE Precast Co. of Hillsboro, Tex., won the 2024 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award for the Crow Museum of Asian Art at the University of Texas at Dallas. 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.

The Crow Museum is a testament to the artistry of architectural precast concrete. Designed as the cornerstone of the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Jr. Athenaeum, this remarkable 68,000 ft² (6300 m²), two-story museum inte-

grates seamlessly into a dynamic new art district, blending architecture and landscape to create a distinctive identity.

The museum's facade, adorned with white precast concrete panels of diverse massing, curvature, and intricate shapes, showcases a three-dimensional pattern. Precise attention to detail was vital during the design and construction phases to execute the complexities of multi-curved panels, precise connection points, and seamless panel alignment.

GATE Precast played an essential part in achieving excellence throughout the project, from the museum's exterior facade to its interior spaces. The unmatched versatility of precast concrete provides seamless transitions that elevate the experience of visitors as they enjoy an extraordinary and enriching journey through the museum's exhibits.

Read more about the Crow Museum in the Project Spotlight section of this issue of *PCI Journal*.

GATE Precast Co. of Hillsboro, Tex., won the 2024 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award for the Crow Museum of Asian Art at the University of Texas at Dallas. Mauricio Rojas, Courtesy of UT Dallas.



EPP program participants honored at Committee Days

Eleven PCI-certified member plants were recognized for their commitment to continuous quality improvement through participation in PCI's Exceptional Precast Practices (EPP) program at PCI's awards luncheon during PCI Committee Days in September.

The EPP program is a voluntary, continuous quality improvement tool developed specifically for the precast concrete industry by PCI's Quality Enhancement Committee. The program offers both a road map for improvement efforts and milestones for measuring progress.

Here is how this voluntary program works: a plant fills out the self-assessment survey for each of the seven sections/modules: productivity, personnel, safety, field operations, sales and marketing, sustainable plant, and concrete. This process allows the plant not only to benchmark where they are today but also to review programs of proven worth that other PCI plants find valuable.

That process allows plant personnel to decide on a road map for the future. If this process is managed well, that road map becomes the goals and programs for improvement and it provides the basis for accountability for achievement. The plant's benchmark score allows plant personnel to actually measure progress from year to year. There is no minimum score required. This is not a contest. Scores will not be published. There is no overall winner. All participating plants are provided with an annual certificate of participation and are recognized at the PCI Committee Days.

The 2024 participating plants were Conewago Manufacturing LLC/Conewago Precast Building Systems, Hanover, Pa.; Enterprise Precast Concrete of Kansas LLC, Kansas City, Kans.; International Concrete Products Inc., Germantown, Wis.; Mid-States Concrete Industries LLC, South Beloit, Ill.; Nitterhouse Concrete Products Inc., Chambersburg, Pa.; Northeast Prestressed Products LLC, Pottsville, Pa.; Prestressed Casting Co., Ozark, Mo.; Prestressed Casting Co., Springfield, Mo.; Smith-Midland

Corp., Midland, Va.; Wells Concrete, Albany, Minn.; and Wells Concrete, Brighton, Colo.

Greika receives Marketing Individual Achievement Award

Corey Greika is the recipient of the 2024 PCI Marketing Individual Achievement Award. The PCI Marketing Individual Achievement Award is given to visionaries and creators who shape the marketing of the precast concrete industry. This award celebrates those whose tireless dedication and novel contributions have positively contributed to our industry's marketing evolution.



Corey Greika

Greika has worked for precast concrete producers for 26 years in positions that include quality control, engineering, sales, and general management. He is currently vice president/general manager at Coreslab Structures (INDIANAPOLIS) Inc. in Indianapolis, Ind.

Throughout his career, Greika has been devoted to educating owners, developers, architects, engineers, contractors, and students about the benefits and advantages of using precast concrete components and structures to grow market share. His impact on the market is demonstrated by the expanded use of precast concrete for parking and mixed-use structures in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky over the past 18 years. Greika is unique in his ability to communicate his breadth of knowledge to others, his work ethic, and his commitment to meeting the highest standards.

Greika's marketing contributions to PCI are significant. An active member of the Marketing Council since 2007, he served as the vice chair of the council from 2019 to 2024 and currently serves as the chair. As part of his efforts to

NORMAN L. SCOTT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>>> The Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award honors the legacy of Norman L. Scott by recognizing professional engineers who have made significant contributions to PCI, the American Concrete Institute, the precast concrete industry, and the engineering profession at large. The award will be presented

at the 2025 PCI Committee Days Conference, September 16-20, at Loews Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill. Complete award details and the official nomination form are available at http://pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Norman_L_Scott. Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2025.

drive PCI marketing initiatives, he has delivered many webinars and in-person presentations.

Greika has also dedicated countless hours to mentoring college students in architecture, engineering, and construction management programs.

AltusGroup receives Marketing Company Achievement Award

AltusGroup of Greenville, S.C., is the recipient of the 2024 PCI Marketing Company Achievement Award. The PCI Marketing Company Achievement Award celebrates outstanding achievements and innovations transforming the marketing sector in the precast concrete industry. This award recognizes companies that exemplify excellence in year-over-year marketing strategies and campaign-focused initiatives, elevating the industry's standards and driving meaningful change.

AltusGroup is an international collaboration of precast concrete companies dedicated to accelerating and perfecting the development of precast concrete technologies that improve the built environment. AltusGroup members work together to bring advanced technology to market and then compete against one another for work.

Among the major accomplishments of AltusGroup is CarbonCast, which launched in 2023. CarbonCast is the first North American precast concrete brand available coast to coast from a variety of precast concrete producers. In addition, the research and development investment in the product fostered the development of insulated precast concrete sandwich wall panels and cladding with full composite action—a first in the industry and a major point of technology differentiation.

AltusGroup has exhibited at more than 20 national trade shows, including those hosted by the American Institute of Architects, the Design-Build Institute of America, GreenBuild, and the National Parking Association. It is frequently the only other precast concrete exhibitor besides PCI. Representatives of AltusGroup have met face to face with thousands of architects to share the story of precast concrete and discuss where precast concrete innovation is headed in the future. AltusGroup has also promoted the innovation of carbon-fiber reinforcement in concrete by giving presentations around the world, including at American Concrete Institute Innovation Conferences, construction-focused events run by the American Composites Manufacturers Association, Carbon Fiber Conferences, and JEC World in France.

Leslie D. Martin Award presented for insulated wall panel specification

This year, the Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit Award was presented for the *Specification for the Design of Precast Concrete Insulated Wall Panels* (ANSI/PCI 150-24) by the PCI Design Standard Committee and PCI Insulated Wall Panel Task Group. The PCI Technical Activities Council presents the Leslie D. Martin Certificate of Merit Award to a PCI-published document judged to be technically outstanding and most worthy of special commendation for its merit as a contribution to the advancement of precast and prestressed concrete.

ANSI/PCI 150-24 is a groundbreaking document. As the first standard to provide guidance on precast concrete insulated wall panels, it represents a critical milestone in the growing popularity and market size of the precast concrete insulated wall panels industry. The author team collaborated extensively to propose provisions that align with proven methods of design and analysis while also reflecting previously published guidance on insulated wall panels in state-of-the-art reports by the PCI Insulated Wall Panel Task Group.

The task group members include Paul Arthur, Al Baysek, Matt Gombeda, Gary Lentz (chair), Edward Losch, Marc Maguire, Kim Seeber, and Heidi Ziemann. Committee members include Paul Arthur, Suzanne Aultman, Sergio Breña, Ned Cleland (chair), Harry Gleich, Matt Gombeda, S. K. Ghosh, Mohammad Habib, Alex Mihaylov, Jon Mohle, Carin Roberts-Wollman, Andrea Schokker, Perry Schram, Roksana Taghizadeh Daloui, and Heidi Ziemann.

Laptas receives Norm Scott Award

Karen Laptas was the 2024 recipient of the Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award. The award recognizes an engineering professional who exhibits the personal and professional character traits that engineer Norman Scott exemplified.

Since joining PCI in 1989, Laptas has consistently volunteered her time and shared her precast concrete knowledge for the betterment of PCI. She has served on the Hollow Core, Joint and Connection Design, Parking Structures, Precast Insulated Wall Panels, BIM, Blast Resistance and Structural Integrity, and Building Code Committees, as well as the



Karen Laptas

Technical Activities Council. Laptas also served on the Blue Ribbon team for the sixth edition of the PCI Industry Handbook Committee and was an active member of the committee for the seventh and eighth editions of that handbook. She was named a PCI Fellow in 2013.

Laptas has spent her career doing what she likes most, being a precast concrete design engineer. She began her career in 1988 with Blakeslee Prestress. She has also worked for Blue Ridge Design, Pittsburgh Flexicore, Unistress, High Concrete, and Alfred Miller Contracting. She is currently a senior structural engineer with Metromont LLC, where she uses her vast and varied experience to develop workable solutions for complex design issues. Laptas draws from her decades of experience as a consulting engineer and plant engineer to advise and mentor new engineers.

Walter named 2024 Speyer Award recipient

Catrina Walter was the recipient of the 2024 Irwin J. Speyer Young Professional Engineer Award. Irwin Speyer believed that one way to advance the precast concrete industry is through PCI committee work. To qualify for the award, an individual must have served on at least one PCI committee and be a registered professional or structural engineer for less than 15 years at the time of the nomination.

Walter has been a PCI member since 2010 and is an alumnus of the 2012 PCI Leadership PCI (LPCI) training program. She currently serves as the chair of the Piles Committee, and she was a key participant in the development and recent publication of the updated *Specification for Precast, Prestressed Concrete Piles* (ANSI/PCI 142-24). Walter is also a member of LPCI and Seismic Committees as well as the Transportation Activities Council, and she is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Walter is a sought-after expert in waterfront and offshore facilities design and construction. She joined WSP, formerly



Catrina Walter

Berger/ABAM, in 2008 and was recently promoted to assistant vice president/project manager for ports and marine engineer.

Walter began making an impression in the precast concrete industry during her master's work at North Carolina State University. Walter's research led to a series of *PCI Journal* papers, and she was awarded the PCI Charles C. Zollman Award in 2012 and ASCE's T. Y. Lin Award in 2013.

Walter shares Speyer's passion for mentoring young engineers and architects. She was instrumental in establishing the Architectural Precast Studio at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Project Precast 2025 has record number of university student applicants

A record-breaking 90 students from universities as far away as Hawaii and across the United States have applied to compete in Project Precast 2025, the PCI Foundation's popular precast concrete design competition for architecture, engineering, and construction management students.

This year, the 2025 competition will be held on from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, in Room 237 in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, where The Precast Show will be held. The students are vying for a top team prize of \$4000, a People's Choice Award of \$2000, and a WOW Award of \$500 given to an outstanding individual student.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the free multimedia presentations. In 2024, the venue filled early with a crowd of more than 200 attendees. This year, the eight teams will compete on behalf of CEG, Coreslab, Clark Pacific, GATE, Metromont, Northeast Precast, Tindall, and Wells.

Sika and Hamilton Form are repeating sponsors of the competition. For more information <https://www.pci-foundation.org/>.

PCI'S CALENDAR

Events

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

2025 PCI Convention at The Precast Show Marriott Indianapolis , Indianapolis, Ind.	February 3-7, 2025
PCI Mid-Atlantic Winter Meeting Gettysburg, Pa.	August 7-8, 2025
Winter TAC Meeting Seattle Marriott Waterfront, Seattle, Wash.	March 6-7, 2025
PCI Mid-Atlantic Summer Meeting Hanover, Md.	March 6-7, 2025
PCI Productivity Tour Hyatt Austin, Austin, Tex.	May 5-8, 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
2025 PCI Committee Days Conference Loews Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, Ill.	September 16-20, 2025
2026 PCI Convention at the Precast Show Loews Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.	February 2-6, 2026
2026 PCI Committee Days San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio, Tex.	September 9-12, 2026
2027 PCI Convention at The Precast Show Marriott Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Utah	February 1-5, 2027

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	January 13-16, 2025	online
	March 24-27, 2025	online
	May 14-16, 2025	Chicago, Ill.
	June 16-19, 2025	online
	August 4-7, 2025	online
	October 22-24, 2025	Nashville, Tenn.
Level III	November 17-20, 2025	online
	March 10-13, 2025	online
	May 13-16, 2025	Chicago, Ill.
	July 14-17, 2025	online
	October 21-24, 2025	Nashville, Tenn.
Certified Field Auditor	December 8-11, 2025	online
	April 7-10, 2025	online
Certified Company Auditor	August 25-28, 2025	online
	April 11, 2025	online
	August 29, 2025	online