

Paper Awards Presentation Session: Published in 2023

Attendees of the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2024 in Philadelphia, PA, USA, are invited to attend the “Paper Awards Presentation Session: Published in 2023.” This session will recognize ACI’s newest paper winners and offer an opportunity to present the winning papers at the ACI Convention on November 5, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST in room Grand BR Salon A at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Awarded categories include the ACI *Concrete International* Award, the ACI Symposium Volumes Award, the Mete A. Sozen Award for Excellence in Structural Research, the Wason Medal for Materials Research, and the Wason Medal for Most Meritorious Paper. The session will take place in-person only and will be captured using screen-recording software.

ACI Codes and Standards Advocacy and Outreach Committee

The ACI Codes and Standards Advocacy and Outreach (CSAO) Committee advises the Board of Direction on strategic opportunities and procedures required for the adoption of ACI codes and standards around the world and identifies opportunities and threats to the adoption of key ACI documents. Additionally, CSAO develops and recommends ACI position statements to the Board of Direction and recommends priorities and opportunities related to codes and standards advocacy and outreach.

CSAO Committee members have a broad range of experience consistent with the scope of ACI’s programs, with representation in almost all board-level committees, including awards, certification, editorial, educational, executive, faculty, international, and technical activities committees.

CSAO has a role for every ACI member in advocacy and outreach, and members can contribute to the advancement of concrete knowledge through the development and adoption of ACI codes and standards.

For more information, visit www.concrete.org/advocacy and/or attend the following events, both at the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2024 in Philadelphia, PA, USA: CSAO Committee Meeting on November 4, 2024, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. EST; and Joint ACI CSAO Committee and Alliance for Concrete Codes and Standards Session, *Destiny of Concrete – Rules and Regulations* on November 5, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. EST.

ACI Certification in Mongolia

In June 2024, Advanced Construction Technology Services, an ACI Certification Sponsoring Group operating primarily in the Middle East, conducted an ACI Concrete

Field Testing Technician – Grade I certification education and examination session for 30 construction professionals of the Premium Corporation at the Oyu Tolgoi mine site in Mongolia, about 700 miles (1100 km) south of the country’s capital Ulaanbaatar.



Participants at the ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician – Grade I certification sessions in Mongolia

The Oyu Tolgoi mine produces copper and gold and lies in the heart of the Gobi Desert. Mongolia's 34% ownership of the mine represents the country's largest financial investment, with the combination open pit and underground mine expecting to produce 500,000 tonnes (551,156 tons) of copper annually to support global electrification needs.

This session marks renewed interest in improving construction practices in Mongolia and underscores the role certification plays in enhancing the safety of construction projects employing concrete.

In August 2024, ACI Past President Antonio Nanni and ACI International Business Director Bernie Pekor met with representatives of the Mongolian Concrete Association, an ACI International Partner, to discuss areas of mutual interest and increased interaction.

For more information on ACI Certification, visit www.concrete.org/certification. For information on the Oyu Tolgoi mine, visit www.riotinto.com/en/operations/mongolia/oyu-tolgoi.

CIM Program Seeks Donations for 2025 Auction at World of Concrete

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program—a business-intensive program that awards students with a 4-year BS in concrete industry management—is seeking donations for its 2025 CIM Auction to be held at World of Concrete. The auction is scheduled for January 22, 2025, at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV, USA. The silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST and the live auction begins at 1 p.m. PST.

“The proceeds from the 2025 CIM Auction will benefit the CIM National Steering Committee (NSC) and support the current CIM programs at Middle Tennessee State University; New Jersey Institute of Technology; Texas State University; California State University, Chico; South Dakota State University; and the Executive MBA program, as well as help fund scholarships,” said Ben Robuck, Chairman of the CIM Auction Committee.

According to CIM Marketing Committee Chairman Brian Gallagher, the 2024 auction was a tremendous

success, raising more than 1.8 million USD in gross revenue. The CIM Auction organizers are hoping for a record event in 2025.

Last year's auction items featured two concrete mixer trucks, a concrete pump, and a laser screed. Other donated items included cement, fly ash, aggregate, concrete saws, drills, safety equipment, training sessions, reference books and software subscriptions, sports travel packages, golf and vacation travel packages, and much more.

Those interested in donating to the auction should contact CIM Auction Committee Chairman Robuck at ben.robuck@cemex.com or +1.404.456.6867.

Reduced Carbon Concrete Consortium to Support Non-State Applicants to Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Notice of Funding Opportunity

In recognition of the August 27, 2024, funding announcement from the Federal Highway Administration



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(FHWA)—a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for non-State applicants that is part of the larger Low-Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Grants Program—the Reduced Concrete Consortium (RC3) reaffirms its commitment to supporting non-State organizations as they navigate the application process. Eligible non-State applicants include local governments, political subdivisions of a State, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function.

The LCTM Grants Program funds the use of construction materials that have substantially lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on national/regional industry data, and concrete is one of the eligible materials. The NOFO will award up to 800 million USD as part of the up to 2 billion USD total in LCTM Program funding. NOFO applications must be submitted through <https://grants.gov> by November 25, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

The industry consortium RC3 was formed to assist all eligible entities, including State and non-State agencies, with the LCTM application processes and subsequent program execution. The consortium also disseminates information on reducing carbon in the construction process. The FHWA encourages non-State applicants to partner with States on applications and projects, and RC3 is well-positioned to help organizations across the country optimize this type of partnering opportunity.

RC3 members include the American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA); National Concrete Pavement Technology Center (CP Tech Center); Concrete Advancement Foundation; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA); MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSHub); Thomas J. Van Dam, FACI, Principal, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE); Lawrence L. Sutter, FACI, Principal, Sutter Engineering LLC; and Kevin Senn, Principal, NCE.

“This is the next step in the unprecedented FHWA investment in the sustainability and resilience of our nation’s transportation infrastructure. We applaud it as bringing much needed resources to local agencies,” Sutter said.

“The RC3 is ready to help applicants with the grant process. We are here to help ensure that sustainability and resiliency efforts can be maximized. Just as we did earlier in the year, we can be an asset and a resource to those who apply,” said Laura O’Neill Kaumo, President and CEO of ACPA.

For more information, contact Tom Van Dam (tvandam@wje.com), Larry Sutter (sutter.engineering@gmail.com), or Kevin Senn (KSenn@ncenet.com), or visit <https://rc3.acpa.org/>.

Details on the FHWA announcement can be viewed at <https://highways.dot.gov>.

Concrete Masonry Checkoff Opens Eyes with New Beauty of Block Campaign

“The Beauty of Block” is a national marketing campaign from the Concrete Masonry Checkoff (CMC), an industry-funded initiative to support education, research, and promotion of manufactured concrete masonry units in the United States. CMC is the only program of its kind to be approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“At its core, this campaign is about shining a light on some of the lesser-known benefits of concrete block,” said Kim Spahn, CMC CEO. “Most people attribute our product with brute strength, but that’s just the beginning. It’s safe, stunning, and a model of efficiency.”

The campaign acknowledges the new world we now live in. “When you consider the realities of worsening climate extremes and the urgency to curb carbon emissions, the manner in which we build must evolve,” Spahn said. “The need for safer, more resilient structures is now table stakes.”

Last year alone, the United States saw 28 weather-related disasters that each exceeded 1 billion USD in damages, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition to the obvious human tragedies, the economic ripple effect for communities can be catastrophic. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, each dollar invested in resilient construction saves communities an estimated 13 USD in future damages, cleanup costs, and economic output.

Those curious to see how concrete masonry can enhance their next project will soon have access to complimentary concrete masonry unit (CMU) design services. Civil engineer Riley Dvorak was appointed National Design Technical Director in July and has begun bringing CMC’s visionary Design Assistance offering to life.

“This is an exciting opportunity to partner with project designers and help them take advantage of concrete masonry’s full range of capabilities,” Dvorak said. Whatever type of structure or style you’re seeking, it’s likely to benefit from the all-around appeal of concrete masonry. Dvorak noted, “Our goal is to open the door for wall systems that perform better, last longer, cost less, and look extraordinary.”

For more information, visit www.beautyofblock.com.