

ACI and NEU at COP29

Antonio Nanni, ACI Past President; Dean Frank, Executive Director, NEU; An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete; and Ahmad Mhanna, Director, ACI Middle East/North Africa Region, participated in COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in early November 2024.

The COP29 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference included several key discussions about concrete, such as launching international definitions for low-carbon cement and concrete, the carbon credit market, and carbon capture utilization and storage. Additionally, after much negotiation, developed countries agreed to provide 300 billion USD annually in climate financing to developing countries by 2035.

At COP29, ACI and NEU coordinated and participated in two key events to encourage using international standards to reach reduced carbon emission goals in the global concrete construction industry.



Antonio Nanni being interviewed at COP29



Ahmad Mhanna, Director, ACI Middle East/North Africa Region, moderator of the “Collaboration and Knowledge: The Key to Concrete Sustainability” event at COP29

First, in collaboration with the Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA), NEU and ACI held an event titled “Collaboration and Knowledge: The Key to Concrete Sustainability.” View this presentation and panel discussion at <https://www.youtube.com/live/u74uSmv7fss>.

Then, “Leveraging US-Developed International Standards for Buildings and Construction to Achieve Clean Energy Goals and a Resilient Future” was co-hosted by the International Code Council (ICC) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) at the America is All In pavilion. This panel discussion can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/0-heQ2I8gQY>.

ACI Seeks Candidates for Regional Manager of International Affairs

To support expanding international activities in the East Asia and Latin America regions, ACI is seeking individuals who have international experience in either East Asia or Latin America to serve in the newly created position of Regional Manager of International Affairs, for their assigned region. The Regional Manager of International Affairs will, under the direction of the Director of International Affairs, identify, plan, develop, and implement initiatives related to programs in their assigned region.

This role requires the individual to initially work from ACI’s headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI, USA. There may be a time where the role will require the individual to work in their assigned region.

Some key responsibilities will include:

- Establish and nurture a wide range of strategic relationships in assigned region, including relationships with chapters, companies, governmental bodies, educational institutions, partners, and other construction industry organizations;
 - Position ACI as a leading resource for information on concrete by participating in regional events to grow the awareness and reputation of ACI; and
 - Monitor/advocate for adoption of ACI codes, specifications, and certifications in countries in the region.
- Requirements include a bachelor’s degree in business, engineering, or related field and commensurate experience, along with a proven background in cultivating relationships. Region-based experience in engineering, construction, nonprofit management, business development, standards developing organizations, and engineering or technical societies is highly desirable. Fluent speaking and writing skills in Spanish or a major East Asian language is preferred.

For more information, visit www.concrete.org/aboutaci/jobopeningsataci.

Join ACI at World of Concrete

World of Concrete will take place January 20-23, 2025, at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV, USA. The event is dedicated to the commercial concrete and construction industries.

ACI will be exhibiting at the event—booth C3449, Central Hall—and will be available to discuss concrete resources, including certification and membership. The event attracts approximately 55,000 attendees and 1500 exhibitors, and occupies more than 600,000 ft² (55,740 m²) of indoor and outdoor exhibit space.

CIM Announces Donations for Annual 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—announced that the two donations for its annual auction at World of Concrete are a 2025 Mack® Granite® 64FR chassis donated by Mack Trucks and equipped with a Revolution® Bridgemaster™ Mixer donated by Revolution Concrete Mixers, as well as a 2025 Peterbilt Model 567 with a Con-Tech Manufacturing extreme duty mixer.

The annual auction will be held January 22, 2025, in the North Hall Room N262 of the Las Vegas Convention Center. For a full list of items, visit www.concretedegree.com/auction.

Reduced Carbon Concrete Consortium Supports State Implementation of Low Carbon Transportation Material Grants Program Following FHWA Award Announcement

The Reduced Carbon Concrete Consortium (RC3)—a consortium created to help departments of transportation (DOTs) and other qualifying entities apply for and use federal Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) funds—applauds the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announcement of funding on November 14, 2024. “INVESTING IN AMERICA: USDOT Awards \$1.2 Billion in Grants to Help State Departments of Transportation Utilize Cleaner Construction Materials” provides details on the grant awards that will go to 39 state DOTs (<https://highways.dot.gov/newsroom/investing-america-usdot-awards-1-billion-grants-help-state-departments-transportation>).

RC3 recognizes that program execution will be a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies, industry partners, and service providers. To assist individual states in their efforts to streamline operations and maximize the value of their award, RC3 will continue to provide support

and consultation. RC3 will also act as a coordinating body, matching states who have an opportunity to collaborate and gain efficiencies of scale when using LCTM funds. Collaborative tasks can include training, environmental product declaration (EPD) development, performance monitoring, and more.

RC3 has partnered with states throughout the application process, making resources such as sample template proposals for both Volumes 1 and 2 of the FHWA application, informational video meetings for state highway agency representatives, and personalized technical support for individual states.

Other initiatives of the Consortium include disseminating information on reducing carbon in the construction process and facilitating contractor preparedness with critical next steps such as EPDs. RC3 has released documentation to help contractors begin collection of EPD data.

RC3 leadership includes 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, Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE).

The LCTM Grants Program will make 1.2 billion USD available to DOTs and other state agencies. The funds will support activities and projects that advance the use of low-carbon materials and products by reimbursing or incentivizing states who incorporate low-carbon materials—including concrete—on construction projects. RC3 believes effective use of LCTM funds will help lower embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, use, and disposal of construction materials, compared to current estimated industry averages.

“With these grants, the FHWA is providing an opportunity for agencies to engage in bold programmatic initiatives. RC3 was formed by dedicated industry experts who are committed to that vision, and we offer practical tools and guidance each step of the way to help connect funding goals to measurable outcomes—we are working to make sustainability goals implementable on the grade,” said Laura O’Neill Kaumo, President and CEO of ACPA.

“RC3 is thrilled to have played a part in supporting the LCTM application process and is excited this funding will advance high performing material alternatives. We will continue to provide assistance as the LCTM program moves to implementation, and welcome any questions,” said Kevin Senn, NCE.

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/>.

PCA Introduces Lower Carbon Concrete: Voluntary Guidelines for Developing a Protocol

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) and professionals across the cement-concrete-construction value chain have developed a new resource, *Lower Carbon Concrete: Voluntary Guidelines for Developing a Protocol*.

This document provides a resource for design professionals, contractors, code officials, elected representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and the public to develop a lower-carbon concrete protocol.

“The definition of ‘low carbon’ is becoming increasingly subjective, with little attention paid to either upstream and downstream impacts or short-term and long-term strength, durability, and resiliency concerns,” said Mike Ireland, PCA President and Chief Executive Officer. “PCA is leading this effort as part of its ongoing commitment to achieve carbon neutrality.”

A protocol developed with the approach outlined in the PCA voluntary guidelines is intended to lower the carbon of a concrete project without sacrificing long-term performance characteristics, including resiliency.

“Today’s climate—bringing some of the severest weather systems our planet has ever experienced—demands cement manufacturers stay the course in efforts to decarbonize the industry,” said Rick Bohan, PCA Senior Vice President of Sustainability. “The best catalysts to reach net zero that are at hand today are alternative fuels and lower-carbon cements. These guidelines should serve as a go-to resource for professionals in the cement, concrete, and construction industries aiming to provide more resilient and sustainable materials.”

View the voluntary guidelines at <https://tinyurl.com/yah6k9vb>.

ASTM International Selected to Lead Standardization Center of Excellence

ASTM International was selected to launch a center of excellence focused on supporting standardization of critical and emerging technologies (CETs). Through a competitive process, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) tapped ASTM International to lead the standardization center of excellence (SCoE) along with several other partners in the standards development environment.

According to the NIST announcement, available at

www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2024/10/nist-awards-15-million-astm-international-establish-standardization-center, the 15 million USD grant awarded to ASTM International will support the development of the SCoE to focus on standards for CETs that support U.S. competitiveness and national security. To accomplish these objectives, the SCoE will focus on four areas that include:

- Pre-standardization engagement to ensure private sector participation;
- Workforce development aimed at creating a pipeline of standards development professionals;
- A program with NIST to identify gaps and accelerate standards development for key CETs; and
- Creation of a data hub with tools and resources for all stakeholders involved in standards development for particular CETs.

ASTM International will be joined in this effort by several key partners with experience in standards development and education and workforce development. The partners comprise several standards developing organizations and other businesses, including the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Association for Advancing Automation (A3), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), UL Standards and Engagement, CSA Group, Accuris, and Nexight Group.

For more about ASTM International’s existing centers of excellence, visit astmxcellerate.com.

In Remembrance



Mullarky

Jon Irving Mullarky, FACI, of Chester, MD, USA, passed away on November 6, 2024, at the age of 85. His career spanned both military and civilian service. Mullarky served in the United States Navy, retiring at the rank of Commander. Following his military service, he applied his skills in civil engineering, spending many years with the National Ready Mixed Concrete

Association (NRMCA) and contributing to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a contractor, overseeing grant administration for concrete bridges. An active participant in standard-setting committees for concrete, he was committed to advancing the field through his expertise and leadership. His contributions had a lasting impact on the construction and engineering sectors.

Mullarky was a member of ACI Committees E702, Designing Concrete Structures; 120, History of Concrete; 211, Proportioning Concrete Mixtures; 325, Concrete Pavements; and 330, Concrete Parking Lots and Site Paving.