

CI Editor-in-Chief Retires After Nearly 30 Years of Service



Tosolt

Keith A. Tosolt, CI Editor-in-Chief, retired from ACI in January 2025. He has been an ACI staff member for nearly 30 years, serving as Associate Editor, Senior Editor, Managing Editor, and Editor-in-Chief.

As Editor-in-Chief, Tosolt was instrumental in overseeing and guiding the creation of content for *CI*, known as “the magazine of the concrete community.”

“I consider myself fortunate to have had such a long tenure with ACI, but it is time to step back and away from the monthly deadlines of *CI*. I feel proud to have helped so many researchers and authors contribute to the publication database, as well as giving our ACI Presidents an assist in communicating with the members through the President’s Memo. Thanks go out to the *CI* team and all my ACI colleagues for their part in making my work life so enjoyable and productive,” Tosolt said.

Tosolt received his BA in communications with a concentration in journalism from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Registration Opens for ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2025

ACI is hosting the ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2025 in Toronto, ON, Canada. Recognized as the world’s gathering place for advancing concrete, the convention will take place March 30-April 2, 2025, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel.

This event will unite engineers, contractors, educators, manufacturers, and material experts to discuss and collaborate on concrete codes, specifications, and practices. Attendees can look forward to technical and educational sessions featuring the latest research, case studies, and best practices, along with opportunities to earn professional development hours (PDHs). Select sessions will also be available on-demand for virtual attendees.

The in-person convention will showcase companies, projects, research, and various networking events designed to connect attendees with top professionals in the concrete industry. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore the exhibit hall, where they can discover a wide range of products and services offered by exhibitors.

The convention boasts a comprehensive schedule with over 300 committee meetings, more than 60 technical sessions, an industry trade exhibition, and several networking events. All committee meetings are open to

attendees, and select programming will be accessible on-demand for remote participants.

Convention highlights include:

Opening Session: The Opening Session is the official start to the convention and will begin with a welcome address by ACI President Michael J. Paul. Next, the emcee for the night will recognize new Honorary Members, Fellows, and 50-Year Members for their contributions to the concrete industry.

Building Code Day: Building Code Day will be a focused exploration of the essential principles and advancements in ACI building codes. This special topic day will highlight ACI’s commitment to developing and maintaining standards that ensure safety, durability, and innovation in concrete construction.

Concrete Mixer: The Concrete Mixer offers an evening of great food, beverages, and lively entertainment, all in a vibrant atmosphere perfect for networking and making lasting connections.

FRC Bowling Ball Student Competition: The ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2025 will host the FRC Bowling Ball Competition, where student teams from around the world showcase their engineering skills and creativity. The objective of this competition is to demonstrate the behavior of fiber reinforcement within concrete, to help students gain experience in forming and fabricating a fiber-reinforced concrete element, and to encourage creativity in engineering design predictions and analysis testing.

Women in ACI Reception: Celebrate and connect at the Women in ACI Reception. Enjoy food, fellowship, and fun while honoring award-winning women, introducing Young Professional Sponsorship winners, and supporting the Concrete Art Auction. Open to all, this event fosters community and supports the next generation of ACI professionals.

Student and Young Professional Networking Event: The Student and Young Professionals Activities Committee (SY PAC) invites all students, young professionals, and convention mentors to a casual networking exchange following the Opening Reception. Attendees will establish connections with fellow young members. Prizes will be awarded during icebreaker activities.

President’s Reception: ACI President Michael J. Paul invites all convention attendees to the President’s Reception, where there will be the opportunity to network with committee chairs, chapter presidents, and international attendees. An assortment of food and a hosted bar will be available.

Technical and educational sessions will be presented live, with on-demand viewing available afterward, offering extensive opportunities to enhance concrete knowledge through the convention platform. This applies to both

in-person and virtual attendees.

Registration is now open online, with discounted rates available until March 28, 2025. For more information about the ACI Concrete Convention and to register, visit aciconvention.org.

Inaugural Block Promoters Conference

The Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association (CMHA) and Concrete Masonry Checkoff (CMC) are teaming up to host the inaugural Block Promoters Conference on March 4-5, 2025, in St. Louis, MO, USA. The newfound educational event—Building Blocks of Success: Promoting Concrete Masonry with Confidence—gives industry professionals the tools and techniques they need to truly shine. “This is a great opportunity for attendees to explore strategies for improving projects, build valuable connections, and broaden their professional reach,” said Nick Lang, VP of Engineering and Advocacy at CMHA.

For block producers, registration is free courtesy of CMC.

“We felt it was important to make this event as accessible as possible, and advancing industry education is one of our strategic imperatives,” said Kim Spahn, CEO of CMC. The cost for associate CMHA members to attend is 250 USD. The conference appeals to all skill and experience levels with an emphasis on developing relationships with designers and leveraging Checkoff’s Block Design Collective resources and tools to create a measurable impact. Sessions will cover both technical and sales-focused topics, including: Understanding the Design Process; Are Lunch ‘n Learns Still Relevant? Connecting with Designers; Addressing First Cost: Is Masonry Really More Expensive?; Concrete Masonry & Resilience; Facilitated Industry Panel: Success Stories; CMU and Carbon; and Innovate or Die: How is Masonry Innovating to Address Designer Needs?

For more information or to register for the conference, visit www.masonryandhardscapes.org/block-promoters-conference.

CMHA is a trade association representing U.S. and



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Canadian producers and suppliers in the concrete masonry and hardscape industry, as well as contractors of interlocking concrete pavement and segmental retaining walls. It is dedicated to the advancement of these building systems through research, promotion, education, and the development of manufacturing guides, design codes and resources, testing standards, and construction practices.

CMC is an industry-funded initiative to support education, research, and promotion of manufactured concrete masonry units in the United States. The Concrete Checkoff Program is the first-ever Checkoff Program at the Department of Commerce. For more information, visit www.concretemasonrycheckoff.org.

Department of Labor Finalizes Rule on Proper Fit Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment in Construction

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has finalized a revision to the personal protective equipment (PPE) standard for construction. The final rule explicitly requires the equipment to properly fit any construction worker who needs it, improving protections from hazardous conditions.

“I’ve talked to workers in construction, particularly women, who have spoken of personal protective equipment that didn’t fit or was simply unavailable at the jobsite in their size,” said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. “PPE must fit properly to work. I’m proud of the broad support from both employers and unions for OSHA’s efforts to make clear that employers must provide the right PPE for each worker who needs it.”

The revision to the standard adds specific language requiring that employers provide PPE that properly fits construction industry workers. The change aligns the construction industry standard with the standard already in place for general industry.

Many types of personal protective equipment must be sized to fit a worker properly. Improperly sized PPE can be ineffective in protecting workers; create new hazards for the worker, such as oversized gloves or protective clothing being caught in machinery; and discourage use because of discomfort or poor fit. The matter has been a longstanding industry safety concern, particularly among some women as well as among physically smaller or larger workers.

Robinson Begins Term as 2025 ASTM International Board Chair

Cassandra Robinson, Engineer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), has started her term as the 2025 Chair

of the ASTM International Board of Directors.

ASTM International’s Board is made of 25 leaders from a variety of companies, associations, universities, government bodies, and other organizations around the world.

Robinson serves as the lead for NUSTL’s Big City Fire Working Group, as the subject matter expert for standards and conformity assessment, and as a member of project teams for operational field assessments and the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) program.

Prior to taking her current position in 2023, Robinson spent 10 years as a physical scientist at the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD, USA. She was responsible for leading the development of documentary standards and coordinating with other federal agencies, industries, and relevant stakeholders in the development of standards and conformity-assessment systems.

An ASTM International Award of Merit honoree, Robinson became a member in 2006. She is Chair of ASTM Committee E54, Homeland Security Applications, and Vice Chair of three E54 subcommittees. In addition, she is a member of Committee F23, Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment.

Robinson received her bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Clemson University, Clemson, SC, USA, and her master’s degree in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, USA.

Engineers Week 2025

Engineers Week 2025 will run from February 16-22, 2025. This year’s theme, “Design Your Future,” is about celebrating engineers and engaging students. It is important to not only celebrate the accomplishments of engineers past and present who have designed the world today, but also to look to the next generation and how kids can be inspired to pursue engineering careers that will be focused on designing the future.

Engineering stands at the cutting edge of innovation, playing a crucial role in crafting the solutions that will define tomorrow. From the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and clean energy to advancements in semiconductors and biotechnology, engineers have consistently driven progress, enhancing lives to be more efficient, comfortable, and interconnected. Through ingenuity, knowledge, and commitment, engineering teams design solutions to tackle global challenges, propel technological progress, and contribute positively to the future of society.

DiscoverE, the organization behind Engineers Week, has free resources that can be used to inspire future innovators, including hands-on engineering activities and lesson plans, information about engineering education, and pathways to a technical career. For more information, visit DiscoverE.org/EngineersWeek.