# Industry **Focus**

#### **Simpson Strong-Tie Student Scholarship Applications Open**

Simpson Strong-Tie is accepting applications for its Student Scholarship as part of the company's Strong-Tie Undergraduate Fellowship. The online scholarship application for the 2023-2024 academic year is available to students at participating universities at **www.strongtie.com/scholarships**. The deadline to apply is March 17, 2023. Awards are for undergraduates in their junior or senior year in civil/structural engineering, architecture, and construction management.

The Strong-Tie Undergraduate Fellowship provides recipients of the company's Student Scholarship with access to industry contacts, relevant training, job leads, peer connections, and community. Through their participation, recipients can build industry knowledge and network to help maximize their future professional growth and success.

The Student Scholarship assists university students in meeting their education costs. Up to 100 scholarships of \$2000 per recipient are awarded every academic year to university students from more than 100 participating schools.



Simpson Strong-Tie Student Scholarship recipients

#### Holcim US Builds on Sustainability Commitment with Amazon Web Services

Holcim US announced a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Baker Concrete Construction to provide low-carbon ECOPact® concrete for the construction of several Amazon Data Centers in Northern Virginia. The companies' goals on sustainability enabled a collaborative approach to the initiative.

Concrete contributes a significant share of embodied carbon in data center construction, and AWS is undertaking initiatives to reduce the carbon impact of the concrete required. For example, AWS implemented a new design standard requiring concrete with at least a 20% reduction in

embodied carbon versus standard concrete for new U.S. data centers. Holcim's ECOPact mixtures allow AWS to not only meet this requirement but almost double it.

### Gilbane Building Company Joins NYC Parks & NYCEDC to Celebrate Groundbreaking on Restoration of Orchard Beach Pavilion

Gilbane Building Company joined NYC Parks, NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), and Bronx elected and community officials to break ground on the \$87 million Orchard Beach Pavilion project to restore the historic 140,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (13,000 m<sup>2</sup>) space. Gilbane is serving as the construction manager for the renovation project.

The \$87 million Orchard Beach Pavilion project is a joint project between NYC Parks and NYCEDC. The three primary objectives of the project are to restore the historic architecture of the landmark building, provide greater ADA access, and provide welcoming and viable amenities for the community.

As part of the project, the historic structural concrete roofs will be reconstructed with additional exterior finishes, including limestone cladding, glazed terracotta, terrazzo, cement plaster, and metalwork to be restored. Additional trees will be planted, and new light fixtures will provide illumination levels that meet current standards for the restored Pavilion.

# Portland Cement Association Announces 2022 Winners of Energy and Environment, Safety Awards

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) announced the winners of its 2022 Energy and Environment Awards and Safety Awards. These awards are given to companies that have implemented outstanding environmental practices and have forged exemplary relationships with communities where their cement plants are located. Submissions from plants across the United States were evaluated and recognized for environmental efforts completed in 2021.

For more information and to learn about the recipients, visit www.cement.org/awards/2022-energy-and-environment-award-winners.

#### eTakeoff and Togal.Al Announce Partnership

eTakeoff, a provider of takeoff software for construction estimating, announced its partnership with Togal.AI, a company bringing artificial intelligence to the construction industry. The partnership will integrate Togal.AI's artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies with eTakeoff Dimension. Togal.AI further enhances eTakeoff Dimension's robust capabilities. It automates the estimating process, which includes measuring the size of each room's square footage as well as wall lengths and object counts. Togal.AI's algorithm

uses American Institute of Architects (AIA) measurement standards to automatically detect, label, and measure project spaces in mere seconds.

## DFI Educational Trust Awards Stanley Merjan and George J. Tamaro Civil Engineering Scholarships

Five students from The City College of New York (CCNY) Grove School of Engineering, Adel Alotibe, Marcia Criollo, Rebecca Gindoff, Jennet Hojamuradova, and Amir Mohammad Maghsoudi, each received \$5000 awards from the Stanley Merjan City College of New York Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in 2010 and is named for the late Stanley Merjan, an inspiration and mentor to young engineers throughout the construction industry, and a graduate of CCNY.

Five Manhattan College students, Gianfranco Affrunti, Marco Ceconi, Christian Dano, Louis Giacomo, and Molly McLoughlin, each received \$4000 awards from the George J. Tamaro Manhattan College Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is named for George J. Tamaro, the first-ever Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) Legends-Engineer Award recipient and a graduate of Manhattan College.

All of the scholarship recipients received a free DFI student membership in addition to their monetary award.

The DFI Educational Trust manages 20 scholarship programs funded by endowments, donations, and fundraising events. Since 2006, the Trust has awarded nearly \$1.9 million in scholarships to at least 500 students studying at colleges and universities across the United States and the province of Ontario, Canada.

#### For Construction Pros. com Releases its 2022 Best Contractors to Work for in Construction List

ForConstructionPros.com unveiled its list of 2022 Best Contractors to Work for in Construction. The recognition program, hosted by the staff of AC Business Media, ForConstructionPros.com, and its affiliated construction brands (*Equipment Today*, *Asphalt Contractor*, *Concrete Contractor*, and *Pavement Maintenance & Reconstruction*), honors the top construction companies that provide a positive workplace environment, competitive compensation, training, and opportunities for advancement.

To be considered, employers needed to register, and employees needed to complete an in-depth survey, providing feedback about their employer. Eligible construction companies had to have 15 full- or part-time employees working in the United States, and the company's primary business activity had to be either general building construction, earthmoving,

paving, or concrete; or specialty and trades, such as underground; utility; electrical; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); demolition; and others. To see the complete list, visit www.forconstructionpros.com/equipment/article/22605099/best-contractors-to-work-for-in-construction-for-2022-named.

### The International Grooving & Grinding Association Announces 2022 Annual Award Winners

The International Grooving & Grinding Association (IGGA) announced the winners of its annual awards program. Presented at the association's annual meeting held in Nashville, TN, USA, the program honors individuals and companies or organizations for lasting contributions made to the grooving, grinding, and concrete pavement preservation/ restoration industry. Five awards were presented this year: the Operator of the Year (Iron Man) Award, awarded to Tony Brink, Corrective Grinding Crew Manager, Diamond Surface Inc.: the Government Official of the Year Award, awarded to Joe Echelle, Assistant Executive Director, Maintenance, Engineering & Construction, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority; the Lester F. Kuzmick Award, awarded to both Scott Eilken, Owner of Quality Saw & Seal, and Terrence Kraemer, CEO of Diamond Surface Inc.; and an Honorary Life Membership Award, awarded to Steve Garrison, retired Sales and Marketing Manager of the former Diamond B.



Joe Echelle (left) accepting the IGGA Government Official of the Year Award