

Chapter Reports

ACI India Chapter Student Competitions and Scholarships

The ACI India Chapter held two successful student competitions, including a Cube Testing Competition and an Essay Competition, for civil engineering students.

The Cube Testing Competition provided students the opportunity to design and make concrete mixtures, cast test cubes, cure and care for them for 28 days, transport them, and witness their testing. The competition was held between August and September of 2022. Students from each of the following schools were selected as winners: Terna Engineering College, St. John College of Engineering & Management, D.Y. Patil College of Engineering, Sanjay Ghodawat University, Rajarambapu College of Engineering, Marwadi University, Kongu Engineering College, Nandha Engineering College, KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology, PSG Institute of Technology and Applied Research, and SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

An Essay Competition was held in September 2022. The essay topic was “Fire Protection to Concrete.” Three students from Kongu Engineering College were the winners.

The winners of both competitions were awarded cash prizes and plaques by the ACI India Chapter during its 2022 International Conference on “Modern Trends in Construction Technology” held at The LaLiT Mumbai hotel.

In addition, the ACI India Chapter recently awarded 48 students \$15,000 in scholarships. The students were selected based on academic performance, student chapter activity level, a 400-word essay, and a student chapter referral minimum.

To learn more about the ACI India Chapter, visit www.icaci.com.

ACI Puerto Rico Chapter FRC Bowling Ball Competition

On January 13, 2023, the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter held its first event of the year, the local FRC Bowling Ball Competition. Approximately 60 students from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico showcased their hard work and demonstrated what can be achieved with time and dedication. Following ACI’s student competition rules and guidelines, students designed and cast a pair of bowling balls to prepare for the competition at the upcoming ACI Concrete Convention April 2-6, 2023, in San Francisco, CA, USA. Before the actual event, each group gathered at the Argos Puerto Rico laboratory, where they officially measured, weighed, and broke one of their specimens.

The competition was judged by a panel of distinguished professionals, including ACI Past President José (Pepe)

Izquierdo-Encarnación; a leading Puerto Rico Concrete Engineer, Ruben Segarra; Argos Puerto Rico’s Lead Technical Advisor, Joan Román; Vice President of the Instituto de Ingenieros Civiles UPRM, Francheska Rivera; President of Asociación Puertorriqueña del Concreto, Pedro Ramos; and a distinguished Engineer and Architect, Manuel Ray. The panel judged the competition by testing the student’s knowledge of the materials they used, as well as evaluating the weight and diameter of the bowling balls, and the functionality of the reinforcing fibers.

This event allowed the students to build relationships with professionals while creating a network to exchange ideas that everyone could benefit from. As the island’s construction industry is growing, engineering firms are eager to hire young professionals. Events like these facilitate the process and encourage students to reach out to future employers.

The chapter also hosted a panel discussion titled “Bridge of Knowledge Between Generations.” Efraín Carreras, President of Ecológica Carmelo, Inc.; Juan Manuel Rivera, Lead Business Manager for Argos Puerto Rico; Ruben Segarra, Principal at Segarra Engineering & Consulting; and Anabel Merejildo, President of the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter, talked about their mentorship experiences throughout their careers. These four engineers got together after realizing that they had mentored each other at some point in their lives. Between jokes and personal stories, they discussed the purpose of a mentor—someone who transfers and shares their knowledge with others in a quick but digestible way. They shared advice, such as being open to work and collaborating with others, focusing on the actual work rather than how they look while doing it, and always having a positive and humbling attitude. According to these professionals, these qualities will make any engineer stand out in their field.

In 2023, the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter wants to focus primarily on mentoring college students and young professionals. The chapter is committed to guiding students and young professionals to be the best engineers they can be. In this regard, the chapter developed the ACI-PR Mentorship Program to match young professionals with distinguished engineers, such as the professionals in the discussion panel, who will help them with their professional development.

“You never know who is going to be your mentor, and one will have many in their life’s journey,” said Efraín Carreras. It is important that students know that every person they meet throughout their careers can become their mentor and, ultimately, have a great impact on their life and career.

After the panel, the judges congratulated each university for participating in this friendly competition. They provided valuable feedback regarding their performance and efforts and gave both institutions a certificate for participation, as well as



Participants of the FRC Bowling Ball Competition



Anabel Merejildo, President of the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter, speaking during the panel discussion

a \$500 donation each. Thanks to the companies and sponsors, the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter was also able to raise \$6000 to give to the universities to continue working toward the common goal of representing Puerto Rico in future competitions.

The ACI Puerto Rico Chapter thanks all the professionals who attended and the sponsors that helped make this event possible. The sponsors included the Professional Institute of Civil Engineers of Puerto Rico; Del Valle Group; Porticus CSP; Ecológica Carmelo, Inc.; Segarra Engineering and

Consulting Group; Carrasquillo Engineering Services Group; Asociación Puertorriqueña del Concreto (APC); Promix Concretos; Argos Puerto Rico; and AT Specialty Cements.

For more information about the ACI Puerto Rico Chapter and its upcoming activities, follow the chapter on its social media platforms, Facebook (ACI Puerto Rico Chapter), Instagram (ACI PR Chapter), LinkedIn (American Concrete Institute - Puerto Rico Chapter), or email at acipuertoricochapter@gmail.com.

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