

## ACI Advances Concrete Knowledge in Central America

ACI President Antonio Nanni (2023-2024) visited several countries in Central America to meet with industry leaders, connect with ACI members and chapters/partners, and host and attend various seminars and technical symposiums. The excursion included stops in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Beginning in Guatemala, Nanni participated in the “Seminario en Conmemoración del Terremoto del 4 de febrero de 1976” in Guatemala City, which was organized by the ACI Guatemala Chapter and Instituto del Cemento y del Concreto de Guatemala (ICCG). This was followed by presentations at the “1o Simposio Técnico ACI-ISCYC” in San Salvador, organized by the Instituto Salvadoreño del Cemento y del Concreto (ISCYC). ACI presentations focused on the relatively new ACI CODE-440.11-22, “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars—Code and Commentary,” plus updates on new initiatives of the Institute. Nanni also met with industry leaders from various companies, producers of cement and construction materials, and governmental agencies. The visit to El Salvador marked the first time an active ACI President has visited the country.

In Costa Rica, the ACI Costa Rica Chapter and the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica (CFIA) arranged for Nanni to give a presentation to students from several engineering universities. Nanni also met with the planning team for the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) Congress, which is being held in San José from September 25-27, 2024.

The trip concluded with a stop in Panama to meet with ACI partner APACRETO’s leadership and senior leaders of various industry companies. APACRETO also arranged for Nanni to make a presentation to students at the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá; visit the Panama Canal, including a new bridge project and the Miraflores and Cocolí Locks; and go on a detailed tour of the new Metro line being constructed in Panama City, which will travel under the Panama Canal through a tunnel.

## ACI Past Presidents Join Board of Directors for PRO Center of Excellence

PRO: An ACI Center of Excellence for Advancing Productivity announced that ACI Past Presidents **Jeffrey W. Coleman** and **Michael J. Schneider** have joined the Center’s Board of Directors.

Jeffrey W. Coleman, FACI, is a licensed professional engineer, Attorney at Law, and CEO of Coleman & Erickson, LLC. He has been an ACI member for over 40 years. Coleman is the author of the book *Legal Issues in Concrete*



Coleman

Construction, published by ACI in 2004 (second edition published in 2014), and previously authored the “Concrete Legal Notes” section of *Concrete International*. Coleman received both his BS in civil engineering in 1976 and MS in structural engineering in 1977 from Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA. Coleman is licensed as an engineer in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and as a lawyer in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Dakota; however, he practices law regularly in other states through admission “Pro Hac Vice.”



Schneider

ACI Honorary Member Michael J. Schneider grew up on the West side of Cincinnati, OH, USA. He received his BS in personnel management from Miami University, Oxford, OH, and his BS in construction management from the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. He began his 45-year career at Baker Concrete as a Project Manager in 1978 and recently retired as Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer. Schneider is also a Past President of the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC). He currently resides in Albuquerque, NM, USA, and is President of Michael Schneider Consulting, LLC.

“Jeffrey and Michael exemplify a commitment to advancing the concrete industry that has been highlighted throughout their professional careers and decades of involvement with ACI,” said Phil Diekemper, PRO Executive Director. “Their technical expertise and leadership capabilities will be critical in helping PRO address the issues that are causing productivity stagnation.”

## PRO Welcomes Additional Members

PRO added new members Baker Construction and Cemex. Baker joined as a Platinum Member, while Cemex joined as a Bronze Member.

Baker Construction is one of the nation’s largest concrete contractors, specializing in industrial distribution, structural, and restoration construction. Founded in 1968 and headquartered in Monroe, OH, Baker has nearly 7500 coworkers with a presence across the United States and the Bahamas. Cemex is a global construction materials company that is building a better future through sustainable products and solutions. Founded in 1906 and headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico, Cemex is committed to achieving carbon neutrality through relentless innovation and industry-leading research and development.

**DOE Releases Plans for 6 Billion USD of Investments in Industry Sector**

NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete (NEU) announced the detailed plans for 6 billion USD of investments in the U.S. industrial sector by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). These investments will establish future paths to decarbonize the industrial sector.

With the industrial sector producing one-third of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, this announcement is an immense investment in these businesses. These investments are spread out over the cement, steel, and aluminum industries.

In the cement and concrete industry, the industrial demonstrations program selected for award negotiations are:

- Deeply Decarbonized Cement Project—Brimstone Energy, Inc., Oakland, CA, USA, federal cost share: up to 189 million USD;
- First Commercial Electrochemical Cement Manufacturing—Sublime Systems, Inc., Holyoke, MA, USA, federal cost share: up to 86.9 million USD;
- Lebec Net Zero Cement Plant Project—National Cement Company of California, Lebec, CA, USA, federal cost share: up to 500 million USD;
- Limestone Calcined Clay Cement Production—Roanoke Cement Company, Troutville, VA, USA, federal cost share: up to 61.7 million USD;
- Low-Carbon Calcined Clay Cement Demonstration—Summit Materials, Inc., Port Deposit, MD, USA; McIntyre, GA, USA; Elmendorf, TX, USA; and Sulphur Springs, TX, federal cost share: up to 215.6 million USD; and
- Mitchell Cement Plant Decarbonization Project—Heidelberg Materials, Mitchell, IN, USA, federal cost share: up to 500 million USD.

“The steps just taken by the DOE to invest in the decarbonization of our industry will help the U.S. cement and concrete industry aim for the White House’s initiative of net-zero emissions operations by 2050,” said Dean Frank, NEU Executive Director. “Here at NEU, we will continue our work with government agencies and the industry to help

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 Form Release Agents ♦ Underlayments and Toppings



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encourage the use of both new and existing materials and technologies to reduce carbon emissions.”

For more details on the projects, visit [www.energy.gov/oced/industrial-demonstrations-program-selections-award-negotiations-cement-and-concrete](http://www.energy.gov/oced/industrial-demonstrations-program-selections-award-negotiations-cement-and-concrete).

## U.S. Green Building Council Releases LEED v5 for Public Comment

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced the opening of the first public comment period for its draft rating system, LEED v5. This step marks a milestone for LEED and the building industry at large, providing a comprehensive framework for creating sustainable, efficient, and resilient built environments that promote environmental responsibility, economic viability, and social equity.

Centered around three impact areas, all credits and prerequisites in LEED v5 drive improvement toward decarbonization, quality of life, and/or ecological conservation and restoration:

- **Decarbonization:** LEED v5 focuses on reductions of all significant sources of emissions: operational, embodied, refrigerants, and transportation;
- **Quality of life:** LEED v5 uses human-centric strategies to improve health and well-being, resilience, and equity and inclusion for building occupants and their communities; and
- **Ecological conservation and restoration:** LEED v5 emphasizes strategies and actions that can be implemented at the individual asset level to limit environmental degradation and contribute toward the restoration of ecosystems.

LEED v5 emphasizes impact, alignment, and interconnectedness to support initial and ongoing sustainability efforts throughout a building’s life cycle. Impact highlights include:

- LEED v5 Operations + Maintenance puts existing buildings on a path to decarbonization and ties Platinum-level certification to near-zero carbon operating emissions;
- LEED v5 Building Design + Construction provides a framework for new buildings to reach near-zero carbon emissions operationally by 2050, on a decarbonized grid, and, at the Platinum level, for buildings to achieve near-zero carbon operationally and embodied carbon reductions today;
- For the first time, project teams will be equipped with key information to guide goal setting and project delivery, including assessment methodologies for climate resilience, carbon emissions through 2050, and social equity. This information will help project teams set higher aspirations, pursue greater innovation, and achieve better outcomes; and

- LEED v5 users will receive a LEED Impact Report that will help them measure, manage, and communicate their project’s performance and allow them to make improvements over time.

LEED v5 for Building Design and Construction (BD+C), Interior Design and Construction (ID+C), and Operations and Maintenance (O+M) rating systems are all open for public comment from April 3-May 20, 2024. Public comment is a critically important step in the LEED development process, and feedback from all stakeholder groups is invited and encouraged. The current drafts and comment forms are available at [www.usgbc.org/leed/v5](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/v5).

## In Remembrance



Tolley

ACI Honorary Member and former ACI Executive Vice President (EVP) **William R. Tolley** passed away on March 16, 2024, at the age of 84, in Knoxville, TN, USA.

Prior to retiring in 2010, Tolley served as ACI’s EVP and President of the ACI Foundation. He also served as President of Creative Association Management (CAM), a subsidiary of ACI that provided management and other services to concrete and construction-related associations, which was restructured as Advancing Organizational Excellence (AOE). As EVP, he was instrumental in strengthening ACI’s financial health, expanding member benefits, revamping ACI’s conventions and educational programs, and restructuring the ACI Foundation and its Student and Strategic Development Councils.

During his 35-year career with ACI, Tolley served as Senior Managing Director, Director of Administrative Services, and Chief Financial Officer. He also served on the ACI Board of Direction, Executive Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, Chapter Activities Committee, and International Committee. Tolley was instrumental in expanding ACI international presence by organizing and conducting international conferences and seminars. He developed relationships with international concrete-related societies and established international partnerships, increasing cooperative efforts worldwide.

Tolley received the 1991 ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award for “outstanding leadership in strengthening and expanding chapter activities, and professional administration of the Institute’s budgets and finances.” He was elected Fellow of the Institute in 1994. In 2006, he was named one of the 10 most influential people in the concrete industry by *Concrete Construction* magazine and in 2011 was named

CEO Emeritus by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives (CESSE).

Tolley served as Treasurer, Board member, and Chair of the Finance and Administrative Committee of CESSE. He was active in the American Society for Association Executives (ASAE) and was an ASAE Certified Association Executive. He served as Chair of the Concrete and Masonry Related Associations (CAMRA) and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Customer Advisory Council.

He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Walsh College, Troy, MI, USA, in 1973.

ACI Honorary Member **Walter G.J. (Mick) Ryan** passed away on March 8, 2024, in Castle Hill, NSW, Australia.

Ryan was bestowed ACI Honorary Membership in 1996. He served on the International Activities Committee and ACI Committee 548, Polymers and Adhesives for Concrete. At a 1989 CANMET/ACI conference in Trondheim, Norway, Ryan was honored with the Abdun-Nur Award for his contributions to the research, development, and use of fly ash in concrete.

Ryan had retired in November 1995 after more than 40 years of involvement in the Australian concrete construction industry. When he retired, he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Cement and Concrete Association of Australia. His service and honors in the Australian concrete and construction industry included Honorary Member of the Concrete Institute of Australia, Past President of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, and Fellow of both the Institution of Engineers of Australia and the Australian Academy of Technological Services and Engineering.

After receiving his engineering degree from the University of Sydney, Australia, Ryan was associated with several public and private firms, including Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority; Ready Mixed Concrete Industries, Ltd.; BMG Resources, Ltd.; and the Boral Group. He also owned and operated his own consulting firm.

He was co-author of the book *Australian Concrete Technology*, published in 1992.



Gustafson

ACI Honorary Member **David P. Gustafson** passed away on October 9, 2023, at the age of 83. He was a Consulting Engineer in Winthrop Harbor, IL, USA, and established his consulting engineering practice after being associated with the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) in the Chicago, IL, region for more than 33 years. He reached the position of Vice President of Engineering before retiring in 2007. For many years in

post-retirement, he enjoyed teaching continuing education courses in engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Gustafson became an ACI Honorary Member in 2015, and was a past Chair of ACI Committee 301, Specifications for Concrete Construction, and a member of ACI Committee 318, Structural Concrete Building Code. He was also a past member of the ACI Board of Direction and the Technical Activities Committee.

Gustafson was a Fellow of ASTM International, and his other professional affiliations included the American Welding Society, the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association, the CSA Group, and the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI). He was the U.S. delegate to the International Organization on Standards Subcommittee ISO/TC 17/SC 16, Steel Reinforcement. He was a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE).

His awards included ACI's Delmar L. Bloem Distinguished Service Award, ASTM International's Founding Committee Award and Award of Merit, and SEAOI's Distinguished Service Award.

He authored technical papers and articles on the design and construction of reinforced concrete structures and on steel reinforcement. He received his BSCE from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, and his PhD in civil engineering from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA, in 1961 and 1967, respectively. He was a licensed structural engineer in Illinois, and a licensed professional engineer in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

ACI member **Hansraj G. Ashar** passed away on October 6, 2023, at the age of 90. In his professional life, Ashar spent his early years designing bridges and buildings in the United States and Germany but dedicated most of his career to government service as a Structural Engineer for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He displayed unwavering commitment and expertise to his profession. After his retirement (at the age of 80), he published a book on containment structures of nuclear power plants that is still used at universities around the country.

A 45-year member of ACI, he served on ACI Committee 349, Concrete Nuclear Structures; Joint ACI-ASME Committee 359, Concrete Containments for Nuclear Reactors; and ACI Subcommittees 349-A, Nuclear Structures-Materials, and 349-B, Nuclear Structures-Design.

Ashar received his BCE from Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, India, and his MS in civil engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.