News

2025 ACI Emerging Leaders Alliance for Young Professionals

Six young professionals represented ACI during the Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) conference on September 15-17, 2025, at The Landing Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA, USA. The ELA is a partnership among leading engineering and science-based organizations that provides leadership training. For the past 16 years, the ELA has hosted an interdisciplinary leadership conference for young professionals, providing advanced training in topics such as management, personal branding, social styles, problem solving, presentation skills, and global diversity. Applicants with less than 8 years of industry experience were required to submit a résumé, nomination letter, and essay questions related to leadership.

Class of 2025 Emerging Leaders Alliance:

- **Emma Zhang**, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA;
- **Cesário Tavares**, ICON, San Marcos, TX, USA;
- **Pravin Saraswatula**, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA;
- **Gourav Patodi**, Brindley Engineering Corporation, Lisle, IL, USA;
- **Ángel Pérez Irizarry**, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), Northbrook, IL, USA; and
- **Manuel Zamora**, Amrize, Lakeville, MN, USA.

This is ACI's seventh year participating in the conference. Kanette Worlds-Richards, ACI Student, Faculty, & Young Professional Activities Coordinator, also attended the conference as a partner representative. Other partners include the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME); Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST); International Erosion Control Association (IECA); Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME); Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE); and The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS).

ACI offers several other programs for Young Professionals, including the free convention registration program, ACI Career Connections mentor program, ACI's Engineering Greatness podcast, and Young Member Activities Committee.

Paper Awards Presentation Session: Published in 2024

Attendees of the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2025 in Baltimore, MD, USA, are invited to attend the "Paper Awards Presentation Session: Published in 2024." This session will recognize ACI's newest paper winners and offer an opportunity to present the winning papers at the ACI Concrete Convention on October 28, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST in room H - Holiday 1 at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor. Awarded authors of papers published in 2024 will be recognized by ACI President Maria Juenger with moderators Anton K. Schindler and Mary Beth D. Hueste. The session will take place in person only and will be captured using screen-recording software.

Seeking Nominations for the ACI Impact Award

The ACI Impact Award celebrates individuals or organizations whose work and forward-thinking initiatives have advanced ACI's mission, vision, and strategic goals. This award recognizes innovative practices, transformative programs, or partnerships that make a difference in the concrete industry—locally or globally. Whether through improving or developing new ACI programs, products, or technology, awardees are ambassadors helping shape the future of concrete. Nominees may be persons, firms, corporations, or organizations affiliated with ACI. Nominations must be submitted by an ACI member or chapter by February 15, 2026, to be considered for awards in 2027. This award originated in 2014 by the ACI Board of Direction as the ACI Strategic Advancement Award. It recognized individuals or organizations who provide support in the implementation of membership and customer satisfaction; the quality of ACI programs, products, and services; and global credibility and impact. This award was renamed the ACI Impact Award in 2025. Submit nominations at **www.concrete.org/newsandevents/honorsandawards/awards/personalawards.aspx#Impact**.

Young Professional Receives Free Convention Registration to Baltimore

Montilla-Peña

The Women in ACI Committee has selected Héctor R. Montilla-Peña to receive complimentary registration to the upcoming ACI Concrete Convention, October 26-29, 2025, Baltimore, MD, USA. The program is dedicated to sharing the experience of professional and technical collaboration with emerging faces in the concrete industry by offering free registration twice a year to professionals with less than 8 years of industry experience. Montilla-Peña is a Field Engineer with Allan Myers, Inc., in Toano, VA, USA. He is currently working on an I-64 expansion project in Virginia and hopes to integrate innovative concrete sustainability practices into his daily tasks.

"My attendance will directly benefit Allan Myers by equipping me with cutting-edge insights and best practices that can be applied to the I-64 expansion project. The

knowledge gained will help optimize our concrete use, enhance project sustainability, and potentially lower long-term operational costs. Additionally, the professional connections established will broaden our organizational network for future collaborative opportunities," Montilla-Peña noted.

All registered Convention attendees are invited to attend events and sessions for young professional members, including:

- Student and Young Professional Networking Event – October 26, 8:30 p.m.;
- What I Wish I Knew: Unique Career Paths in the Concrete Industry – October 27, 8:30 a.m.;
- Young Member Activities Committee Meeting – October 27, 1:30 p.m.;
- Concrete Design 201: Designing Low Carbon Concrete – October 27, 1:30 p.m.; and
- Women in ACI Networking Event – October 27, 4:30 p.m.

Applications for the next Young Professional Free Convention Registration Program for the ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2026 in Rosemont/Chicago, IL, USA, will be available immediately following the Fall Convention. For more information about young member activities or Young Professional Membership, contact Kanette Worlds-Richards at Kanette.Worlds@concrete.org.

Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute Publishes *PCI Design Handbook*, Ninth Edition

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) released the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*, ninth edition. This guide provides easy-to-follow design procedures, both new and updated numerical examples, and both new and updated design aids. It provides the designer with comprehensive procedures for code compliance and efficient design of both architectural and structural precast and prestressed concrete products.

"We are excited to unveil the ninth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*," said Amy Trygestad, PCI Vice President of Technical Services. "This edition is aligned with the 2021 International Building Code, and it includes expanded examples and straightforward design procedures that will significantly aid designers. This latest release highlights the commitment of our volunteer members to advancing and disseminating knowledge in the precast, prestressed concrete industry."

Both electronic and hard copies of this publication will be available in November 2025. It is available for preorder now.

Winners Announced for the 2025 Concrete Masonry Student Competition

The Concrete Masonry and Hardscapes Association (CMHA), along with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), announced the winners of the 2025 Concrete Masonry Student Competition. This competition recognizes six outstanding projects that use concrete masonry products as the primary material in the design of a state-of-the-art fire station, with an emphasis on local civic engagement. Students were challenged to design a fire station that accommodates diverse needs, ranging from equipment storage and gender-inclusive housing accommodations to recreation and civic events. Each project emphasizes the use of concrete masonry as a flexible, resilient method to convey form, function, and expression. The jurors chose first-, second-, and third-place winners, along with three honorable mentions. Listed below are the names of the projects, recipients, their faculty sponsor(s), and schools:

First Place: The Periurban Fire Station—Alec Rosen and Akhil Singh, students; Sergi Serrat Guillen, sponsor; Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA;

Second Place: East Harlem Fire Station & Local Marketplace—Rafah Alzindani and Era Hulaj, students; Suzan Wines, sponsor; City College of New York, New York, NY, USA;

Third Place: Flash Point—Michael Zemaitis, student; Erik Hemingway, sponsor; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA;

Honorable Mention: Fire Station Number 7 – Re Axis—Alireza Alikaei, student; Silvia Acosta, sponsor; Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA;

Honorable Mention: Underhill – Encinitas Fire Station #01—Álvaro Núñez and Wenjie Zhuang, students; Peter Noonan, sponsor; University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA; and

Honorable Mention: The Dog House—Andrew Dewalt and Stephanie Orr, students; Bryce Truitt, sponsor; Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA.

The competition jury included three distinguished members: Marcus Shaffer, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA; Annicia Streete, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; and Mark Wilhelms, Best Block Companies.

Proposed Standard will Aid Testing of Fiber-Reinforced and Ultra-High-Performance Concrete

ASTM International is developing a proposed standard, WK73384, that will test how well fiber-reinforced concrete (FRC) and ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC) hold together under stress. The proposed test method will help determine whether an FRC or UHPC mixture meets the required quality for its intended structural performance.

WK73384 is being developed by ASTM Subcommittee C09.42, Fiber-Reinforced Concrete. The proposed standard introduces a simple and effective method called the double-punch test, which helps measure tensile performance of FRC and UHPC. This test produces consistent, low-variability results. The standard can serve as a practical tool for quality control, product qualification, and specification compliance.

"Tensile properties are especially important in fiber-reinforced concrete and ultra-high-performance concrete because they directly affect how structural elements made from these materials behave and ultimately fail," said Shih-Ho Chao, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Texas at Arlington. "To ensure consistent quality in FRC/UHPC mixes, it's important to measure these properties reliably."

This effort directly relates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure and Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities. ASTM International welcomes participation in the development of its standards.

In Remembrance


Furlong

ACI Honorary Member **Richard W. Furlong** passed away April 25, 2025, in Dallas, TX, USA, at the age of 96. Furlong pursued a lifelong passion for learning and teaching and served as a Professor of Structures at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, for 51 years. He received his PhD from The University of Texas at Austin and came back to teach at his alma mater in 1958 after a 6-year apprenticeship designing bridges and building structures in St. Louis, MO, USA. A Distinguished Member and life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), he served on the ASCE Board of Direction in 1990-1992 and as President of the Texas Section in 1997.

Furlong's advancements in composite column design enhanced the earthquake resistance of bridges and building frames. His research into biaxial bending of columns, column slenderness, and inelastic behavior of frames contributed to enhanced design specifications for both steel and concrete structures. He received the ACI Raymond C. Reese Structural Research Award (now called the Mete A. Sozen Award for Excellence in Structural Research) for his studies of inverted T-beam bent caps and the ACI Educational Activities Committee (EAC) Speaker of the Year award.

He also served on various ACI Committees, including the ACI Board of Direction; the ACI Publications Committee; 318, Structural Concrete Building Code; 340, Design Aids for ACI Building Codes; and 439, Steel Reinforcement; as well as Joint ACI-ASCE Committees 335, Composite and Hybrid Structures, and 441, Reinforced Concrete Columns.


Nawy

ACI Honorary Member **Edward G. Nawy** passed away on July 26, 2022, in San Diego, CA, USA. He was Distinguished Professor Emeritus in Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ, USA, where he served for 50 years, including as Department Chair, Graduate Director, and Faculty Member of the University Board of Governors and Board of Trustees. He was an active member of ACI since 1959 and internationally recognized for his work in the fields of reinforced and prestressed concrete, particularly in the areas of crack and deflection control. Nawy published over 180 papers in numerous technical journals worldwide and is the author of *Reinforced Concrete: A Fundamental Approach*, sixth edition; *Prestressed Concrete – A Fundamental Approach*, fifth edition; *Fundamentals of High-Performance Concrete*, second edition; and *Concrete Construction Engineering Handbook*, second edition.

He received the ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award in 1972, ACI Chapter Activities Award in 1978, ACI Foundation Robert E. Philleo Award in 2001, and ACI Design Award in 2003. He also received Honorary Professorship of the Nanjing Institute of Technology, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China; Honorary Emeritus Membership of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the Committee on Concrete; and the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. He was an Evaluator for the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Nawy served as Chair of ACI Committee 435, Deflection of Concrete Building Structures, and was a member of the ACI Chapter Activities Committee and ACI Committees 224, Cracking; 340, Design Aids for ACI Building Codes; and Joint ACI-ASCE Committee 421, Design of Reinforced Concrete Slabs. He also served twice as President of the ACI New Jersey Chapter.

He graduated from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (disseminated intravascular coagulation), London, UK, in 1951; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (civil engineering), Cambridge, MA, USA, in 1959; and University Pisa (doctor in engineering), Pisa, Italy, in 1967. He was a licensed professional engineer in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, California, and Florida.