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FIU Associate Professor Receives PCI Educator of the Year Award

Dr. Brian Garber invests time & talent educating future engineers in precast concrete

October 29, 2021, Orlando, Fla. – Dr. David Garber, an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Florida International University (FIU), as well as the director of workforce development for the university’s Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center received the coveted Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) Educator of the Year Award last week in Chicago, IL.

Garber is quite active in PCI, serving as a member of the PCI Student Education Committee since 2015. He has also been a voting member since October 2019. He is currently part of the subcommittee working on a PCI prestressed concrete design textbook and diligently serves on the Committee on Bridges.

At the association’s annual meeting, Garber was the proud recipient of the Educator of the Year Award. This award is designated to recognize early-career contributions to the PCI education mission or a singular, truly significant contribution to education. Since 2001, the PCI Foundation has focused on providing curriculum development grants to schools of architecture, engineering and construction management.

These grants allow professors to partner with local precast producers, engineers, and architects to create unique content that cultivates productive relationships between the precast industry and the academic community, develops high-potential students for productive careers within the industry, and facilitates including precast concrete information and technologies in university curricula.

Garber has conducted numerous large-scale experimental and analytical research projects related to precast, prestressed concrete and accelerated bridge construction.

Beginning January 2020, Garber initiated and led a PCI Foundation Design Studio at FIU. Through this studio, he developed a new course on precast concrete design. In accordance with fellow educators, Garber also found himself challenged by the COVID-19 global pandemic. In order to effectively reach and educate his students, often via online means, Garber went above

and beyond by creating a library of over 250 videos for his course. With nearly 8,500 subscribers, these videos are now publicly available on his [YouTube channel](#). Continuing with his desire to grow his students and provide an opportunity to expand their experiences in the precast concrete industry, the course incorporated the PCI Big Beam competition as the final project.

Although research contribution is a component for award recipients, the primary consideration for candidates of the PCI Educator of the Year Award is a candidate's contributions to instruction, at all levels, student learning, and/or educational service. Garber's work far-exceeds these criteria.

Garber has also organized and facilitated numerous educational outreach activities in the local community, including summer camps for elementary school students and their parents, teacher workshops, and outreach activities with the public library with activities related to prefabrication.

Candidates who have won the Educator Award are eligible for the Distinguished Educator Award.

"We are thrilled for Dr. Garber," exclaims Diep Tu, executive director of the Florida Prestressed Concrete Association, a regional chapter of PCI. "Dr. Garber is an amazing asset to our organization and the precast, prestressed concrete industry overall."

"His award is well-earned and well- deserved," Tu remarks.

The Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA) was founded in 1957 by a small group of construction leaders and visionaries when the Precast/Prestressed industry in the United States was less than a decade old. The FPCA was the first of its kind precast concrete association in the nation and it is from this group that the national association, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) was created. The FPCA is a not-for-profit Florida corporation. The FPCA's goal then, in 1957 is the same as now, which is to provide the construction industry in Florida a superior building system that is durable, attractive, and economical.

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