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FPCA Education Foundation is Proud to Award Laura Cardenas Lopez Student Scholarship

FIU Civil Engineering Major First Female Award Recipients

March 8, 2022, Orlando, Fla. – The Florida Prestressed Concrete Association is proud to announce Laura Cardenas Lopez as the first female recipient of the FPCA Education Foundation Student Scholarship.

The Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA) Education Foundation is sponsoring scholarships for deserving students pursuing careers related to the precast, prestressed concrete industry, including professional positions in manufacturing facilities, architectural firms, the specifying community, structural engineering firms and the construction industry.

The scholarship is for students starting a 2-year Program, Certificate Programs or entering the third academic year or higher at a qualifying college or university who are interested in careers related to the *precast, prestressed concrete industry*.

Laura’s passion for the precast, prestressed concrete industry inspired her to go back to school at Florida International University (FIU) where she takes classes in the evenings and studies on weekends in pursuit of attaining her bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering.

Contingent upon continuing to meet scholarship requirements, FPCA will award Laura \$1000 over the next 3 semesters until her anticipated graduation date of Spring 2023.

“My education will contribute not only to myself but to the industry itself,” Laura shares. Born in a third-world country, surrounded by water and beaten by hurricane season every year, the value of concrete construction resonates in a real-life way. “Concrete is considered our safe

nest. It flows in my veins like blood,” she relates.

Mentored through her experiences at Coreslab Structures (Miami), Laura has enjoyed the opportunity to be part of one of the most competitive precast, prestressed companies in the market.

“Laura has been a key member of the sales team at Coreslab Structures (Miami). Her background in Architecture and pursuit in a Civil Engineering degree, along with her many qualities and skills will qualify her to play many roles in the precast industry. We are honored to have played a mentorship role that we hope helps her toward a long future in the precast industry,” remarks Allen Witt, P.E., vice-president of sales for Coreslab Structures (Miami).

Her combination of knowledge, experience, and planning serves Laura’s well, setting her up for future success.

“As an adult woman going back to school, an adult immigrant from a non-native English-speaking country, and as a career changer; my capacity of growing from challenges, has led me to where I stand today,” says Laura.

FPCA is proud to support Laura in her endeavor to be a game changer in the precast, prestressed concrete industry.

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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