

Research Fellowship Rules

Goal: To advance the precast concrete industry through support of graduate engineering students and research.

Rules:

Criteria: Awards will be given for the following fellowships, but applications do not need to specifically identify the intended program:

- **Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowship:** These fellowships are open to any research topic which advances the precast concrete industry. Topics need not be limited to structural components or materials testing. Innovative ideas to improve design, fabrication, quality, or erection of structural and architectural precast concrete are encouraged. In parallel, we are seeking ideas with the potential to improve the market impact of the precast industry because of the research.
- **Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship:** This fellowship is open to research topics relevant to design, materials, or construction of precast concrete bridges.

Eligibility: The fellowship program is open to any assistant, associate, or tenured professor who advises graduate students at a university in North America. Students may be PhD candidates, but Masters degree students are preferred. Competition is restricted to North America to ensure interaction with one or more PCI or CPCI Producer members in the development and execution of the project.

Solicitation: A solicitation shall be distributed by PCI staff during March of each year with a due date for applications established to allow six weeks for Council review prior to the fall meeting of the Council. The solicitation shall include a listing of research topics identified as being high priority for the institute.

Applications: Applications shall be submitted electronically no later than the due date established in the solicitation. Applications submitted after the due date will not be considered. Application shall include the following minimum information:

1. Title page with the names of the university and the research team, including all contact information and signatures of the advising professor and department chair.
2. Description of the proposed research program (3 pages maximum).
3. Time and cost schedule, including any additional support.
4. Brief résumé of the faculty advisor (2 pages maximum)
5. Evidence of precast industry support.

Project: It is intended that the project would be relevant to the precast concrete industry. Where the proposed project is part of a larger project, the work proposed for fellowship funding shall be clearly identified. Applications that are contingent on approval of other funding will be rejected.

Industry support: Applicants must receive a letter of support for the proposed project from at least one PCI producer member. Letters of support must endorse the merits of the proposed project but may also

indicate in-kind donation of materials or fabricated precast components or additional direct financial support by the PCI producer member. Specifically, the letter must address why the project is of interest to the PCI producer member. If possible, the industry support letters should state why the approach has a reasonable chance of success. Industry support letters which simply support the researcher, the student or the University and do not address the merits of the proposal will not be considered. The support may also be provided by a PCI professional member. The dollar value of any proposed support should be indicated.

Evaluation: Voting members of the PCI Research and Development Council will evaluate submitted applications. Research relevancy, market impact, researcher’s capability, supplemental support, and overall quality are evaluated per the attached Fellowship Evaluation Criteria.

Award: Fellowships are awarded by nomination of and simple majority vote on an application at a meeting of the PCI Research and Development Council.

Grant: The fellowship award consists of a grant at the amount requested in the proposal, up to a limit of \$50,000. The funds will be provided to the advising faculty with the stipulation that they are an unrestricted grant and, therefore, no university overhead may be taken from the funds. All funds are to be used in support of the student and the project. Awarded funds will be distributed contingent on the identification of the graduate student recipient. The recipient shall be identified within nine months of the award or the fellowship will be withdrawn.

Advisory Committee: At the time of selection, an advisory committee shall be established to monitor and provide guidance to the project. The chair of the advisory committee shall be a council member but the advisory committee can be composed of any PCI members with interest or expertise in the subject of the project.

Deliverables: Because the fellowship funds are provided as an unrestricted grant, no deliverables can be required of the recipient. PCI shall request a copy of the final student report or thesis and shall encourage the student and professor to publish a summary paper in the *PCI Journal*. The faculty researcher and student will also be invited to present updates and final results at the R&D education sessions at the annual PCI Convention.