

## **PCI Announces 2015 Big Beam Contest Results**

The Student Education Judging Committee recently selected the winners of the Engineering Student Design Competition, also known as the Big Beam Contest. PCI's Student Education Committee (Dr. Sergio Breña, Chair) organizes the Big Beam Contest, sponsored by SIKA Corp., and assigned the judging committee (Dr. Richard Miller, Chair). The objective is for teams of students to fabricate and test a precast/prestressed concrete beam with the help of local precast concrete PCI Producer Members. Prizes are awarded to the top twenty (20) performers in consideration of efficient design, highest load capacity, and other categories.

New judging criteria for 2015 eliminated zonal competitions and all entries competed in one North American competition. Entries were ranked by total number of points earned per the contest rules and the first place team was from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

### **Overall Results**

#### **First place: University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Indiana (Zone 4)**

Faculty advisor: Yahya Kurama, PhD, PE

PCI producer: StresCore Inc.; South Bend, Indiana (Jason Reihl)

*Student team: Robert Devine, Michael Brandes, David Terry, Jessica Orlando, Nicholas Bette, Ted Williams, Craig Davila, Megan McKeon,*

Points: 64.50

Award: \$2000, plus other prizes

#### **Second place: Oregon State University; Corvallis, Oregon (Zone 1)**

Faculty advisor: Keith Kaufmann, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Knife River Corporation - Northwest; Harrisburg, Oregon (Keith Kaufmann, PhD, PE)

*Student team: Karryn Johnson, Jason Anderson, Curtis Blank*

Points: 59.25

Award: \$1750

#### **Third place: The University of Kansas [Orange Team]; Lawrence, Kansas (Zone 3)**

Faculty advisor: Robert Lyon, PE

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures, Inc; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)

*Student team: Allie Wagner, Cheng Chen, Jie Wu, Andrew Hasse, Ali Abdul Baki, Madan Neupane*

Points: 53.75

Award: \$1500

#### **Fourth place: University of Washington [Team 2]; Seattle, Washington (Zone 1)**

Faculty advisor: John Stanton, PhD

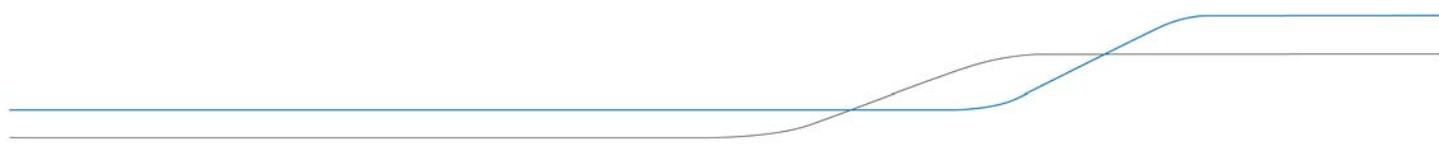
PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corporation; Tacoma, Washington (Austin Maue)

*Student team: Lardo Wang, Wai Lok Chung, Suki Ngan, Yousef Alshaba, Givens Lam*

Points: 52.00

Award: \$1250

---



**Fifth place: The University of Kansas [Blue Team]; Lawrence, Kansas (Zone 3)**

Faculty advisor: Robert Lyon, PhD

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures, Inc; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)

*Student team: Michael Whitten, Kevin Garrett, Mohammad Bazzaz, Michael Sang, Mona Khosh, Parisa Asadollahi*

Points: 51.25

Award: \$1000

**Sixth place: Missouri University of Science & Technology; Rolla, Missouri (Zone 3)**

Faculty advisor: John Myers, PhD

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures (Missouri), Inc; Marshall, Missouri (John Brodersen)

*Student team: Eli Hernandez, Kaylea Smith, Hayder Alghazali*

Points: 50.00

Award: \$1000

**Seventh place: University of Missouri, Kansas City; Kansas City, Missouri (Zone 3)**

Faculty advisor: Ganesh Thiagarajan, PhD

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures, Inc; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)

*Student team: Kristen Reynolds, Phanindra Kumar Kosaraju*

Points: 48.50

Award: \$1000

**Eighth place: Western University; London, Ontario, Canada (Zone 7)**

Faculty advisor: Maged A. Youssef, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Prestressed Systems Inc.; Windsor, Ontario (Nebojsa Mladenovic, LEL)

*Student team: Reem Tabbara, Ahmed Mansour Ibrahim, Ahmed Elshaer, Jad Atwe, Dana Elfarr, Boqiang Zhu, Erdal Celap, Mohamed Mansour, Moustafa Aboutabikh, Aiham Adawi*

Points: 48.25

Award: \$1000

**Ninth place: The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, Alabama (Zone 6)\***

Faculty advisor: Sriram Aaleti, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Gate Precast; Monroeville, Alabama (Mark Ledkins)

*Student team: Nathan Klenke, Andrew Lasdell, Vidya Sagar*

Points: 47.25

Award: \$1000

**Tenth place (tie): Red River College; Winnipeg, Manitoba (Zone 7)**

Faculty advisor: Robin Hutchinson, PhD, P.Eng.

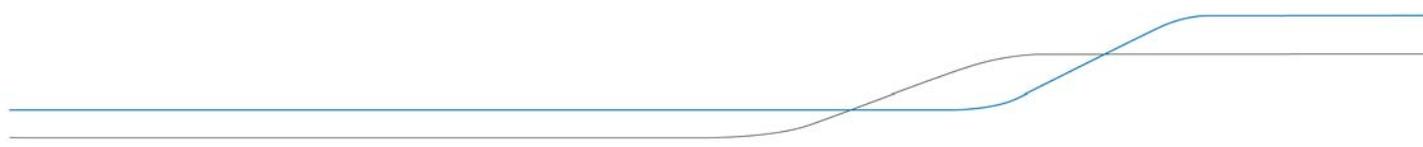
PCI producer: Lafarge Canada, Inc; Winnipeg, Manitoba (Ifan Lim)

*Student team: Paul Desautels, John Kliever*

Points: 46.00

Award: \$1000

---



**Tenth place (tie): Northern Arizona University; Flagstaff, Arizona (Zone 1)**

Faculty advisor: Robin Tuchscherer, PhD, PE

PCI producer: Tpac (a Kiewit Western Company); Phoenix, Arizona (Abdullah Kassab)

*Student team: Abdullah Alahaddad, Mingyang Chen, Brian Bloom, Catherine Irvine*

Points: 46.00

Award: \$1000

**Twelfth place (tie): University of Washington [Team 1]; Seattle, Washington (Zone 1)**

Faculty advisor: John Stanton, PhD

PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corporation; Tacoma, Washington (Austin Maue)

*Student team: Bryan Lee, Jordan Cox, Hyung Kim, Alec Yeutter*

Points: 45.00

Award: \$500

**Twelfth place (tie): The University of Kansas [Red Team]; Lawrence, Kansas (Zone 3)**

Faculty advisor: Robert Lyon, PhD

PCI producer: Coreslab Structures, Inc; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)

*Student team: Abdulaziz Almarshad, Yaseen Ameen, Jessica Galvis, Xiangxiong Kong, Donald Spradling, Madison Strutman*

Points: 45.00

Award: \$500

**Fourteenth place: California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento, California**

Faculty advisor: Eric Matsumoto, PhD

PCI producer: Clark Pacific; West Sacramento, California (Mathew Rosatelli)

*Student team: Matthew Rosatelli, Sean Ornelas-Linter, Matthew Wicks, Matthew Gonzalez, Michael Reynolds, Jacob Edwards, Khan Nguyen, Michael Lucas, Brian Ellis, Daniel Saechao*

Points: 44.50

Award: \$500

**Fifteenth place: University of Windsor; Winsor, Ontario (Zone 7)**

Faculty advisor: Amr ElRagaby, PhD

PCI producer: The Prestressed Group; Windsor, Ontario (Neb Mladenovic)

*Student team: Firas Abdulkhaleq, Mohnad Nabhan, Rama Nabhan, Jihad Zaher*

Points: 44.25

Award: \$500

**Sixteenth place: Norwich University; Northfield, Vermont (Zone 5)**

Faculty advisor: Edwin Schmeckpeper, PhD

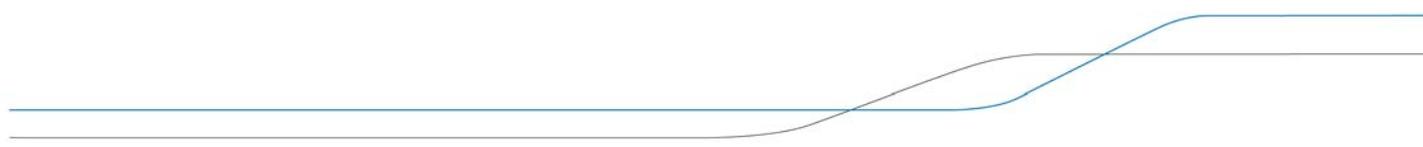
PCI producer: J. P. Carrara & Sons; Middlebury, Vermont (Ben Cota)

*Student team: Edmund Hayes, Richard Veno, John Lobkowicz*

Points: 39.75

Award: \$250

---



**Seventeenth place: Fanshawe College; London, Ontario, Canada**

Faculty advisors: Solomon Asantey, PhD, P. Eng.

Amneh Kalloush, M., Eng., P. Eng.

PCI producer: The Prestressed Group; Windsor, Ontario, Canada (Nebojsa Mladenovic)

*Student team: David Seward, Leanna Badke, Peter VanderSterre, Kyle Underwood, Cameron Wilson, Sean Strutt, Dimitri Giannakopoulos*

Points: 36.75

Award: \$250

**Eighteenth place: Colorado State University; Fort Collins, Colorado**

Faculty advisors: Rebecca Atadero, PhD

PCI producer: Rocky Mountain Prestress; Denver, Colorado (Graham Allen)

*Student team: Sushant Ajay Admuthé, Seth Joseph Boesch, Vaishak Gopi, Prajwal Mysore Prakash*

Points: 34.50

Award: \$250

**Nineteenth place: Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mankato, Minnesota**

Faculty advisor: Farhad Reza, PhD

PCI producer: Wells Concrete; Wells, Minnesota (Gregg Jacobson)

*Student team: Chase Radue, Jerry Schimmel, Ben Rosol, Jordan Rynish, Khalid Aldalbahy, Mahad Osman, Moath Aldalbahy*

Points: 34.25

Award: \$250

**Twentieth place: University of California, San Diego (Team 1); San Diego, California**

Faculty advisor: Jose Restrepo, PhD

PCI producer: Midstate Precast

*Student team: Kyle Buffo*

Points: 23.50

Award: \$250

## Best Report

The judging committee considers the overall presentation of the report when deciding on a best report winner. In addition to verifying the report contains all the requested sections and required signatures, judges look for clear presentation of data, professional look and formatting, and an overall well-written report. This year, two entries were clear standouts and both were awarded the best report distinction.

**University of Washington [Team 2]; Seattle, Washington (Zone 1)**

Faculty advisor: John Stanton, PhD

PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corporation; Tacoma, Washington (Austin Maue)

*Student team: Lardo Wang, Wai Lok Chung, Suki Ngan, Yousef Alshaba, Givens Lam*

Award: \$250



## Best Video

Contest requirements include a video taken of the beam being tested. Teams are encouraged to be as creative as they wish when preparing the final video. Videos with a storyline related to the big beam competition are clear standouts and the judging committee may elect an entry to receive a best video award.

### **Western University; London, Ontario, Canada (Zone 7)**

Faculty advisor: Maged A. Youssef, PhD, P.Eng.

PCI producer: Prestressed Systems Inc.; Windsor, Ontario (Nebojsa Mladenovic, LEL)

*Student team: Reem Tabbara, Ahmed Mansour Ibrahim, Ahmed Elshaer, Jad Atwe, Dana Elfar, Boqiang Zhu, Erdal Celap, Mohamed Mansour, Moustafa Aboutabikh, Aiham Adawi*

Award: \$250

## Special Judges Award

The Judges have presented a Special Judges Award to the University of Alabama. A first time participant, UA finished 9th overall and had a report and video worthy of consideration for Best Report and Best Video. The Judges were particularly impressed by the “Lessons Learned” section of both the report and video. Citing this as one of best examples they had seen of the “spirit of the contest,” the Judges have singled out the University of Alabama for special commendation.

### **The University of Alabama; Tuscaloosa, Alabama (Zone 6) \***

Faculty advisor: Sriram Aaleti, PhD

PCI producer: Gate Precast; Monroeville, Alabama (Mark Ledkins)

*Student team: Nathan Klenke, Andrew Lansdell, Vidya Sagar Ronanki*

Award: \$500



\*New school to competition

V.2.aRm0806

---

---

---