FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PCI Announces 2018 Big Beam Contest Results

CHICAGO—August 31, 2018—The 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. Wael Zatar, Chair) organized the Big Beam Contest (sponsored by GCP Applied Technologies, PTAC, and ASPIRE Magazine) 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.

Entries were ranked by total number of points earned per the contest rules and the first-place team was from the Saint Martin’s University, Lacey, WA.

Overall Results

First place: Saint Martin’s University [Snap Crackle Pop]; Lacey, Washington
Faculty advisor: Jill Walsh, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corporation; Tacoma, Washington (Austin Maue)
Student team: Jarad Roschi, Joel Rodgers, Tyler Sloan, Carthney Laukon, Jesse San Nicolas, Luis Camacho, Turner Kreman, Chase Weeks
Points: 57
Award: $2000, plus other prizes

Second place: Northern Arizona University [Breaking Beams]; Flagstaff, Arizona
Faculty advisor: Robin Tuchscherer, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Tpac (a Kiewit Western Company); Phoenix, Arizona (Gabby Wilson)
Student team: Roy Crouch, Stephen Gergal, Fernando Rojo, Brandy Wagoner
Points: 56.25
Award: $1750

**Third place:** The University of Alabama [Alabama]; Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Faculty advisor: Sriram Aaleti, PhD
PCI producer: Gate Precast Company; Monroeville, Alabama (Harris Carter)
*Student team: Sumedh Sharma, Daniel Valentim, Emily Gould, Gabrielle Willis*
Points: 54.75
Award: $1500

**Fourth place:** Florida International University [Team 1]; Miami, Florida
Faculty advisor: David Garber, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Coreslab Structures; Medley, Florida (Luis Compres)
*Student team: Daniel Castillo, Charmaine Emanuels, Ivan Reyes, Fabio Baldini, Andrei Perim*
Points: 53.25
Award: $1250

**Fifth place:** University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Indiana
Faculty advisor: Yahya Kurama, PhD
PCI producer: Strescore, Inc; Southbend, Indiana (Adam Reihl)
*Student team: Gavin Chamberlain, Sydni Clark, Daniel Fisk, Chris Garcia, Julian Mancini, Kathleen McKeon, Olivia Perham, Andrew Rossi*
Points: 53
Award: $1000

**Sixth place:** University of Minnesota Duluth [Team 1]; Duluth, Minnesota
Faculty advisor: Ben Dymond, PhD
PCI producer: Molin Concrete Products; Lino Lakes, Minnesota (Paul Kourajian)
*Student team: Connor Mills, Ethan Herberg, Lucas Kaari*
Points: 52.75
Award: $1000

**Seventh place:** University of Kansas [Team 3]; Lawrence, Kansas
Faculty advisor: Bob Lyon, PE
PCI producer: Coreslab Structures; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)
*Student team: Liba Daniel, Jae Kim, Pratik Mishra, Riddhik Naik, Vanessa Notario*
Points: 51
Award: $1000

**Eighth place:** United States Military Academy; West Point, New York
Faculty advisor: MAJ Lyle R Milliman
PCI producer: Blakeslee Prestress, Inc; Branford, Connecticut (Rick Fitzgerald)
*Student team: Evan Pape, Benjamin Parmer*
Points: 49.5
Award: $1000
**Ninth place:** University of Washington [Project Vulcan]; Seattle, Washington
Faculty advisor: John Stanton, PhD
PCI producer: Concrete Technology Corporation; Tacoma, Washington (Austin Maue)
Student team: Sam Turner, Hao Zhuang, Lionel Mizero
Points: 48.5
Award: $1000

**Tenth place:** Lehigh University [Team 2]; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Faculty advisor: Clay Naito, PhD, PE
PCI producer: J&R Slaw, Inc; Lehighton, Pennsylvania (Jeremy Klotz)
Student team: Matthew Mutti, Michael Duffy, Henry Paul
Points: 48.25
Award: $1000

**Eleventh place:** University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee [D.A.V.E.]; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Faculty advisor: Jian Zhao, PhD
PCI producer: Spancrete; Valders, Wisconsin (Randy Neumeyer)
Student team: Dallas Martin, Andrew Szulczewski, Victor Ramirez, Ethan Smith
Points: 47
Award: $500

**Twelfth place:** Lehigh University [Team 1]; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Faculty advisor: Clay Naito, PhD, PE
PCI producer: J&R Slaw, Inc; Lehighton, Pennsylvania (Jeremy Klotz)
Student team: Jayne Marks, Kyle Root, Nicholas Swank
Points: 45
Award: $500

**Thirteenth place:** Idaho State University; Pocatello, Idaho
Faculty advisor: Mustafa Mashal, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Forterra Structural Precast; Salt Lake City, Utah (James McGuire)
Student team: Jared Cantrell, Karma Gurung, Maximilian Casanova, Christopher Clauson, Henrik Karstens
Points: 44.75
Award: $500

**Fourteenth place:** Florida International University [Team 2]; Miami, Florida
Faculty advisor: David Garber, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Coreslab Structures; Medley, Florida (Luis Compres)
Student team: Mohammed Alalawi, Frandy Manasse, Rozita Mazaheri, Amir Sadeghejad, Rutambara Sonawane
Points: 43.75
Award: $500
**Fifteenth place:** Minnesota State University, Mankato; Mankato, Minnesota
Faculty advisor: Farhad Reza, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Wells Concrete; Wells, Minnesota (Dustin Jones)
*Student team: Padam Dhungana, Khada Dhungana, Issac Fritz*
Points: 41
Award: $500

**Sixteenth place (tie):** Colorado State University; Fort Collins, Colorado
Faculty advisor: Rebecca Atadero, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Plum Creek Structures; Littleton, Colorado
*Student team: Aatir Farooq, Abdullah AlGasem, Claudia Quezada, McKenzie Flaherty, Jordan Illian*
Points: 38.5
Award: $250

**Sixteenth place (tie):** Montana State University; Bozeman, Montana
Faculty advisors: Michael Berry, PhD
PCI producer: Missoula Concrete Construction, Inc.; Missoula, Montana (Adam Bauer)
*Student team: Adam Sticka, Sam Wilkes, Dylan Nisbet*
Points: 38.5
Award: $250

**Eighteenth place:** University of Kansas [Team 1]; Lawrence, Kansas
Faculty advisor: Bob Lyon, PE
PCI producer: Coreslab Structures; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)
*Student team: Lavanya Bala, Pooya Grayli, Sarah Pippen, Tristan Yount*
Points: 36.5
Award: $250

**Nineteenth place:** University of Kansas [Team 2]; Lawrence, Kansas
Faculty advisor: Bob Lyon, PE
PCI producer: Coreslab Structures; Kansas City, Kansas (Terry Fleck)
*Student team: Alireza Bahadori, McKayla Blackhurst, Duncan MacLachlan, Danqing Yu*
Points: 24.25
Award: $250

**Twentieth Place:** California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento, California
Faculty advisor: Eric Matsumoto, PhD, P.Eng.
PCI producer: Clark Pacific; West Sacramento, California (Glenn Underwood)
*Student team: Lal Sah, Richard Ly-Lee, Maxwell Hampton, Raju Sah, Ram Sah, Luis Martin, Asia Al-Maliki, Monil Singh*
Points: 22
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.

**Northern Arizona University [Breaking Beams]: Flagstaff, Arizona**
Faculty advisor: Robin Tuchscherer, PhD, PE
PCI producer: Tpac (a Kiewit Western Company); Phoenix, Arizona (Gabby Wilson)
*Student team: Roy Crouch, Stephen Gergal, Fernando Rojo, Brandy Wagoner*
Award: $500

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.

**University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Indiana**
Faculty advisor: Yahya Kurama, PhD
PCI producer: Strescore, Inc; Southbend, Indiana (Adam Reihl)
*Student team: Gavin Chamberlain, Sydni Clark, Daniel Fisk, Chris Garcia, Julian Mancini, Kathleen McKeon, Olivia Perham, Andrew Rossi*
Award: $500

All videos are posted online on PCI’s Big Beam Channel on YouTube. Simply visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search *PCI Big Beam.*

PCI has 12 regional affiliate organizations throughout the United States to support its members at the local level. These organizations provide numerous services, such as continuing education, marketing, various resources, precast design assistance and resources and university support.

About PCI

Founded in 1954, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) is the technical institute and trade association for the precast/prestressed concrete structures industry. As a technical institute, PCI develops, maintains, and disseminates the Body of Knowledge for the design, fabrication, and erection of precast concrete structures and systems by:

- Conducting research and development projects in concert with universities and research laboratories nationwide
• Publishing a broad array of technical resources including design manuals, state-of-the-art reports, periodicals, and more
• Certifying companies and individuals involved in the manufacture and erection of precast/prestressed concrete products
• Educating precast personnel and industry stakeholders on the proper specification, design, fabrication, erection, and use of precast/prestressed concrete
• Representing the industry in code advocacy activities

PCI also serves as the industry trade association, advancing members’ interests by:

• Promoting the use of structural and architectural precast concrete for a variety of applications in partnership with 11 regional affiliates across the United States
• Publishing safety manuals and materials
• Providing education and training materials
• Representing the industry through regulatory and legislative advocacy
• Offering meetings and networking opportunities, awards programs, and much more

PCI members include precast concrete manufacturers, companies that provide products and services to the industry, precast concrete erectors, and individual members, such as architects, consultants, contractors, developers, educators, engineers, and students.

To learn more, visit [www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org) or email Sherrie Nauden at snauden@pci.org.