



# Newsletter

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[www.acinebraska.org](http://www.acinebraska.org)

nebraska chapter  
american concrete institute

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## 2023 ACI Nebraska President Encourages Education and Training to Ensure Concrete Excellence

As a Nebraska ACI member since the late 1980s, I am honored to serve as President of the Nebraska ACI Chapter. Over the years, I have seen firsthand how education, collaboration, and shared experience strengthen our industry. As we look ahead, our focus remains on working alongside our members to expand meaningful training and educational opportunities that benefit both individuals and the broader concrete community.

Mark Flott  
2026 ACI Nebraska President

The Programs Committee has developed a strong and diverse lineup of educational webinars and breakfast seminars for 2026. These sessions are designed to address both practical field challenges and emerging industry trends. Members are encouraged to stay engaged and refer to the Calendar of Events each month for the latest updates and registration details.

In addition, ACI Nebraska is partnering with the AGC Nebraska Building Chapter to coordinate a one-day “Flatwork Finisher for General Contractors” seminar. This program is specifically designed to support project managers and superintendents by enhancing their understanding of flatwork practices, improving communication with field crews, and ultimately driving better project outcomes.

As the 2025–2026 training season ends, we want to recognize the efforts of the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association for delivering high-quality, accessible programming. Looking ahead, the 2026–2027 Training is already preparing a comprehensive schedule of classes to continue supporting concrete excellence across the workforce. These programs remain focused on practical application, industry standards, and affordability to ensure they are accessible to as many professionals as possible. Additional details will be available this fall at [concretenebraska.org](http://concretenebraska.org).

Finally, we will continue expanding our outreach to younger members and emerging professionals in 2026. Investing in the next generation is essential to the long-term strength and sustainability of the Nebraska ACI Chapter. Through mentorship, education, and engagement, we aim to build a strong pipeline of knowledgeable and committed individuals who will carry our industry forward.

## Celebrating the Retirement of *Mike Willman* Honoring a Career That Shaped Nebraska Concrete



Read a special highlight celebrating Mike Willman on pages 4-5

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**American Concrete Institute  
Nebraska Chapter**  
Chartered, December 1988

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In March, ACI Nebraska participated in the Chapter Officer Roundtable held during the ACI Spring Convention in Chicago. The session brought together chapter leaders from across the country and abroad to share ideas, resources, and strategies for strengthening local chapters.

*Read highlights on the next page.*





# ACI Spring Roundtable Takeaways:

## Opportunities for the Nebraska Chapter

By Jereme Montgomery

One of the key discussions centered on strategic planning. Several chapters have adopted formal strategic plans to define goals, set expectations, and guide long-term growth. ACI offers resources to support this effort, presenting an opportunity for the Nebraska Chapter to evaluate whether a structured plan could enhance our direction and impact.

A recurring theme was the need to better communicate member value. Many members are unaware of benefits such as Concrete International subscriptions, ACI University course tokens, and access to the membership directory. Improving awareness and onboarding, through welcome packets or personal outreach can strengthen retention.

Membership growth strategies emphasized setting clear goals, defining a value proposition, and actively tracking results. Ideas included referral incentives, certification-based membership offers, and targeted outreach to engineers, contractors, and students.



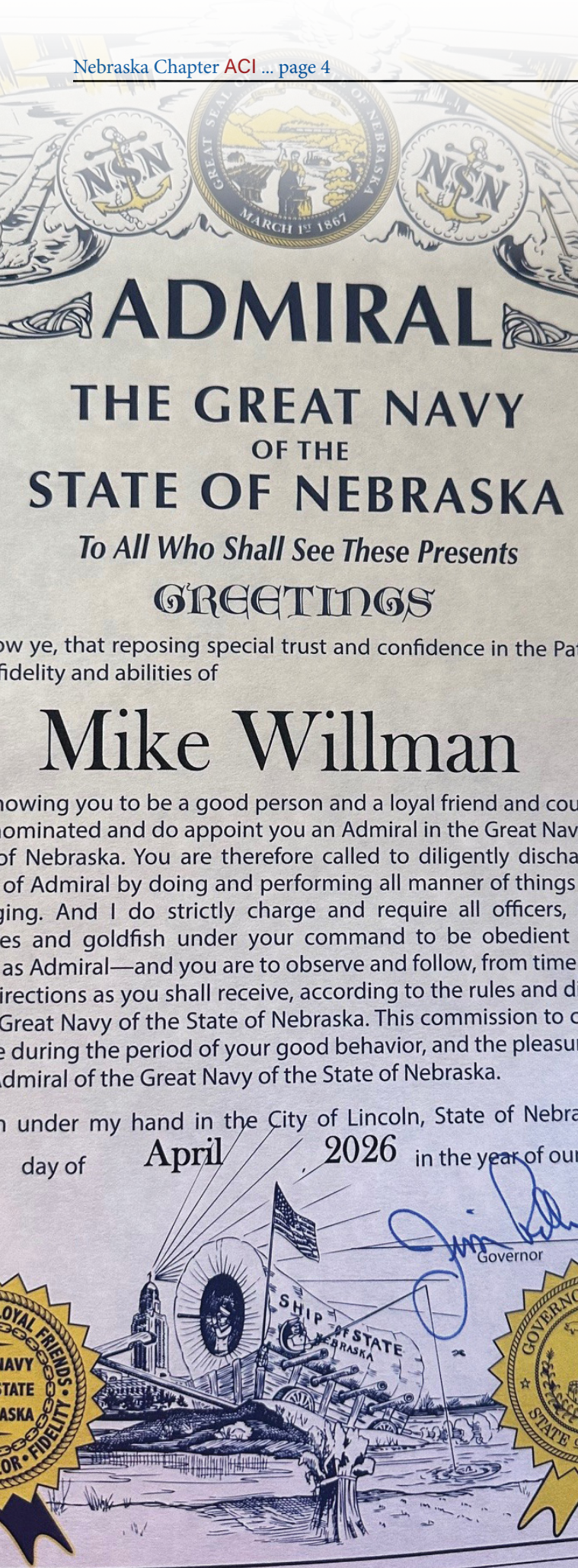
The roundtable also highlighted valuable ACI resources available to chapters, including:

- Chapter Talks with funded speakers (up to \$1,000 in support)
- Marketing and branding toolkits
- Graphic design assistance and whiteboard videos
- Non-monetary sponsorship support for local events

For programming, chapters are finding success by planning meetings well in advance and actively involving members in topic selection. Popular topics ranged from curing compounds and petrography to panel discussions covering real-world project collaboration.

Finally, there is continued emphasis on engaging students and young professionals. With over 15,000 student members nationwide, chapters are creating dedicated committees, hosting targeted events, and leveraging discounted memberships to build the next generation of ACI leaders.

The roundtable reinforced that ACI Nebraska has strong opportunities to expand its reach through strategic planning, improved communication, and intentional member engagement. These ideas will help guide future discussions as we continue to grow and strengthen our chapter.



# Honoring a Career That Shaped Nebraska Concrete

After more than four decades of dedication to Nebraska’s concrete industry, Mike Willman officially retired from Chryso, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to influence the industry for generations.

Mike’s career began in 1977 with the Nebraska Department of Transportation, working on a survey crew in Norfolk. From those early days, it was clear he had a strong foundation in the field, one that would grow into a career defined by technical expertise, leadership, and a commitment to improving concrete practices across the state.

Following his time with NDOT, Mike joined Gerhold Concrete Company, where he spent decades contributing to the advancement of concrete materials and construction. In the early 1980s, he worked alongside NDOT leaders Claude Oie, former Construction Engineer, and George Woolstrum, former Concrete Engineer, to help develop pavement repair mixes PR1 and PR3, mixes that are still used across Nebraska today.

Mike has also been a cornerstone of education and workforce development. Since the early 1980s, he has been deeply involved in ACI training and certification, helping train and mentor countless professionals. As a Charter member of the ACI Nebraska Chapter since 1988, his influence has extended across generations of concrete professionals, many of whom carry forward knowledge that can be traced back to him.

In the early 2000s, Mike partnered with Moe Jamshidi to help establish the NDOT and NC&AA Annual Meeting. That effort created a critical platform for collaboration between industry and agency leaders, improving communication around research, specifications, and emerging challenges. It is still one of the most important forums in our state today.

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# Celebrating the Retirement of *Mike Willman*



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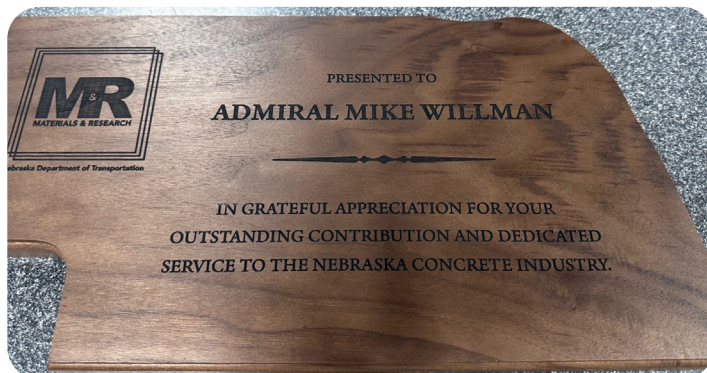
His commitment to industry has been recognized time and again. Mike is a three-time recipient of the Nebraska Concrete and Aggregate Association Presidential Award and a recipient of the ACI Nebraska Tom Reading Award, one of the highest honors recognizing long term service, leadership, and advancement of concrete technology.

As he closes this chapter, Mike's contributions were further recognized with two meaningful honors.

Mike was awarded the Nebraska Admiralship, one of the state's highest honors, recognizing individuals for outstanding service and contributions. This marks the first time the distinction has been presented to an industry representative. The award reflects not only his professional achievements, but also the respect he has earned across the entire industry.

In addition, the Nebraska Department of Transportation Materials and Research Division recognized Mike with a special award honoring his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the Nebraska concrete industry.

But if you ask those who have worked with Mike, the awards only tell part of the story.



He is known just as much for his willingness to help, to teach, and to show up. Whether it was answering a technical question, supporting certification programs, or helping move the industry forward, Mike consistently made himself available. That kind of presence leaves a mark that goes far beyond any single project or specification.

When asked what the most valuable tool throughout his career has been, Mike said, "the people."

*In the concrete industry, I believe relationships matter even more than day-to-day work. Every ready-mix producer offers a similar product, so success ultimately comes down to trust and the strength of the relationships you build."*

As Mike transitions into retirement, the industry he helped build is stronger because of him. His influence can be seen in the people he trained, the standards he helped develop, and the countless projects that benefited from his knowledge.

And while he may be stepping away from his official role, anyone who knows Mike understands that his passion for concrete will not be going anywhere. He will still serve as ACI Nebraska's Treasurer and will continue to volunteer his time for the betterment of the industry.

Mike, thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and the lasting impact you have made on Nebraska's concrete industry.

## ACI Nebraska Past President Dr. Jiong Hu Named ACI Fellow

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jiong Hu, Professor and Associate Chair for Graduate Programs in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, has been elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute (F.ACI).

This prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the concrete industry and to ACI through leadership, research, education, and service. The Fellow designation is one of ACI's highest honors.

Dr. Hu has been an active member of ACI for nearly two decades and is a past President of the ACI Nebraska Chapter, where he provided leadership and support to the local concrete community. He

has also served in multiple national leadership roles, including Chair of ACI Committee 238 on Workability of Fresh Concrete.

He currently chairs the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Concrete Pavement Materials (AKN13) and contributes to several national committees focused on advancing research and practice in concrete materials. Dr. Hu's research spans ultra-high-performance concrete, fiber-reinforced concrete, recycled concrete, rheology and workability of fresh concrete, and bio-based and bio-inspired cementitious materials.

He has served as principal or co-principal investigator on more than 50 research projects, with total funding exceeding \$8 million. His work has contributed to specification updates and field implementation efforts across several states. The American Concrete Institute formally recognized Dr. Hu's election to Fellow status during the Opening Session and Keynote Presentation at the ACI Spring 2026 Concrete Convention in Rosemont/Chicago, Illinois.



*Congratulations Dr. Hu!*  
*Well-deserved recognition for all your  
work in the concrete industry.*



# CONCRETE CONNECTIONS

BUILT ON STRENGTH. CONNECTED BY QUALITY.

June 24th , 2026 - Drury Inn, Lincoln, NE



## Join us for the much anticipated ICF and Concrete Parking Lot Educational Event w/ a tour of the Drury Inn Hotel.

### Description

Here's an opportunity to learn more about cutting edge innovations in Ready Mixed Concrete. Latest strategies for vertical concrete construction and concrete parking lot best practices. Also featured will be a tour of the New Drury Inn in downtown Lincoln built with lightweight, fast, and more cost-effective Insulating Concrete Form (ICF), construction. See ways in which lower carbon concrete & ICFs are quickly becoming the sustainable methods of choice for building all project types including residential, hotels, schools, and offices. Learn how to work more effectively with concrete to enhance their sustainability and competitiveness in today's construction environment.

### Schedule

8:00am to 8:30am	Registration/Breakfast
8:30am to 8:45am	Welcome and Introductions
8:45am to 9:30am	Intro to ICF Commercial Construct
9:30am to 10:00am	Benefits of Building with ICF
10:00am to 10:15am	Break
10:15am to 10:45am	Concrete Parking Lots
10:45am to 11:30am	Ownership Advantages
11:30am to 12:15pm	Complementary Lunch
12:15pm to 1:00pm	Tour of ICF Hotel
1:00pm	Final Comments/Adjourn

### Who Should Attend

Design Professionals, General Contractors, Masonry Contractors, Concrete Contractors, Wood and Steel Framers, Concrete Producers

### Continuing Education

Continuing Education Hours available

**Use the QR code to RSVP and learn more about this event. Link also provided below. Reach out to Anne @ [aklute@concretenebraska.org](mailto:aklute@concretenebraska.org) or 402-432-0096 w/ questions.**



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## Industry Happenings

### UPCOMING ACI WEBINAR

#### ACI 2026 Concrete Structures Webinar: AI Integration

 August 19, 2026  
12:00 PM CDT - 1:00 PM CDT



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the architecture, engineering and construction landscape, but you don't need to be a tech wizard to harness its power.

For more information and to see registration details visit our website: <https://acinebraska.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php>

A promotional poster for the Concrete Cares 10th Annual Golf Tournament. The poster features a purple awareness ribbon with the word "NEBRASKA" written across it. To the right, it says "10th Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT" in a mix of green and blue fonts. Below that, it reads "Celebrating Concrete Industry Support for Cancer Patients and Survivors Across Nebraska Communities". The date "July 11, 2026" and location "Fairplay Golf Course Norfolk, NE" are listed. The background is a scenic image of a golf course with a green, a white ball, and a flag on a green under a blue sky with a lightning bolt. At the bottom, a white flag icon is followed by the slogan "Making a difference one yard at a time." in a cursive font.

More information available at <https://concretecaresne.com/events/>

*Visit our award-winning chapter at [www.acinebraska.org](http://www.acinebraska.org)*