



# Newsletter

Volume 37 Issue 4  
WINTER | 2026  
[www.acinebraska.org](http://www.acinebraska.org)

nebraska chapter  
american concrete institute

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## *Building on a Strong Foundation:*

### A Message from Your Incoming ACI Nebraska Chapter President



First, I'd like to thank our outgoing president and the entire board for their leadership and hard work over the past year. Because of your dedication, our chapter continues to grow and remain strong, and I am grateful for the solid foundation you have provided as we move forward.

Mark Flott  
2026 ACI Nebraska President  
Organization

As a charter member of the ACI Nebraska Chapter, having joined in the 1980s, it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your chapter president. My appreciation for concrete began long before my professional career. I discovered my love for the material back in eighth grade, helping my family lug buckets and finish floors on apartment and residential projects. That early hands-on experience stuck with me and ultimately shaped my career path.

After college, I worked on engineering projects with Wilson Concrete and Enterprise Concrete, where I was involved in developing precast concrete products specifically for use in the utility industry. Those experiences reinforced my belief in concrete as an efficient, durable, and highly productive building material, and they continue to influence my passion for advancing concrete education today.

As president, my primary goal is to increase member attendance and engagement. Strong participation leads to better knowledge sharing, stronger education, and a more connected industry. I am particularly focused on encouraging greater involvement from engineers and architects, homebuilders, and students at all levels, including universities, technical colleges, and high schools.

I also plan to reach out to past board members and industry leaders for their advice and perspective as we work toward these goals together. Our chapter has a wealth of experience, and I believe collaboration across generations and disciplines is key to our continued success.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to promote concrete education and support the growth of our industry across Nebraska.

## ACI Nebraska Annual “Awards of Excellence” Project Winners

In January, ACI Nebraska hosted its annual Awards of Excellence program, recognizing outstanding concrete design and construction projects from across the state. Projects are evaluated for innovation, quality, and exemplary use of concrete materials and techniques. This year, seven projects were honored: four with Outstanding Achievement awards and three receiving the prestigious Award of Excellence, the program's highest recognition.

Congratulations to all involved. We will see you next year!

**INSIDE: Award-Winning Projects, Tom Reading Award Winner, Scholarship Recipients, and more!**

printed quarterly by



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

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**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Report*

*Submitted by Mike Willman*

The bi-annual membership directory of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) will be published and distributed in the next few months. If you haven't renewed your 2026 membership, please renew expeditiously to be included in the 2026 Membership Directory. If you have recently changed companies or relocated, please contact me with your updated contact information. Mike Willman at 402-547-9613 or email [Michael.willman@saint-gobain.com](mailto:Michael.willman@saint-gobain.com).



The Nebraska Chapter of ACI has a diverse membership of architects, engineers, contractors, concrete producers, testing agencies, material and equipment suppliers, State and Government representatives, educators, and students. The strength of our membership is closely related to our membership size and diversity. The benefits of increased membership enhance our educational programs and networking opportunities to further promote concrete in the State of Nebraska.

In addition to your local ACI Nebraska membership, ACI International offers additional benefits: Digital subscription to Concrete International Magazine, 3 ACI University On-Demand Courses, ACI Membership Directory, and Printable ACI Membership Certificate.

Membership cost is \$35.00 per year for regular members and \$5.00 for students. Members receive reduced rates for seminars and outings. You can renew online on the Nebraska Chapter ACI website at [www.acinebraska.org](http://www.acinebraska.org) or a membership form can be downloaded from the website and submitted by mail.

# ACI Nebraska Chapter Awards Three with Educational Scholarships

Each year, the ACI Nebraska Chapter proudly supports the future of the concrete industry by awarding scholarships to students who demonstrate strong interest, ability, and potential in concrete design, construction, and materials. In 2026, the Chapter awarded three \$1,500 scholarships, presented in honor of late Nebraska Chapter Executive Secretary Richard T. DeLorm. The scholarships recognize one associate, one undergraduate, and one graduate student currently studying in Nebraska.

## ASSOCIATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**Walter Schnell** | Lincoln, Nebraska

The Associate Scholarship was awarded to Walter Schnell of Lincoln, a student at Southeast Community College in Milford pursuing an associate degree in Building Construction Technology. Walter has expressed a strong desire to grow into a leadership role within a company focused on residential and commercial concrete construction. Letters of recommendation highlighted his reliability, work ethic, and positive attitude, noting his willingness to arrive early, stay late when needed, and support coworkers. These qualities reflect both his commitment to the trades and his potential as a future construction industry leader.



## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**Hallie Hamilton** | North Platte, Nebraska

The Undergraduate Scholarship was presented to Hallie Hamilton of North Platte, a junior studying Construction Management at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a minor in Business Administration. Hallie has gained extensive hands-on experience through laboratory work, concrete plant tours, and participation in national student competitions, including concrete bowling ball and masonry bridge events. Her involvement in professional organizations such as AGC, NAWIC, and The Masonry Society further demonstrates her dedication to professional development and leadership within the construction industry.



## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**Zhaniya Omarova** | Lincoln, Nebraska

The Graduate Scholarship was awarded to Zhaniya Omarova, a graduate student on the University of Nebraska Omaha campus. Zhaniya's academic focus is on concrete materials science and mix design, with particular interest in sustainable materials and the use of recycled and industrial by-products. While completing her master's degree, she is working with the Nebraska Department of Transportation on research aimed at optimizing curing strategies to reduce shrinkage cracking in bridge decks. Her work reflects a strong commitment to applying research in practical, real-world construction settings.



**ACI Nebraska congratulates all three scholarship recipients and applauds their dedication to advancing the concrete industry through education, research, and professional engagement.**

## *Honoring a Legacy of Service: Remembering Kyle Poff*

• 2026 TOM READING AWARD WINNER •



At this year's ACI Nebraska Awards of Excellence Banquet, the chapter was proud to present the Tom Reading Award to Kyle Poff, honoring a remarkable leader, advocate, and friend of the concrete industry. The award was accepted by Kyle's wife, Lisa Poff, on his behalf.

Kyle passed away in June of last year, far too soon. Those who knew him remember him as someone who never met a stranger and gave selflessly of his time, energy, and heart to the industry and the people within it. He was married to Lisa for more than 21 years, and together they raised their son, Kayden.

Kyle spent over 25 years working alongside his father, Stan Poff, at Kearney Concrete. Following the sale of the company, he continued his career with Ed Broadfoot & Sons Sand & Gravel. Throughout his professional life, Kyle remained deeply involved in advancing the concrete industry through service and leadership. He was an active member of ACI Nebraska, Concrete Cares of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association.

Kyle served eight years on the ACI Nebraska Board of Directors and was chapter president in 2019. He played a key role in the formation of the ACI Student Chapter at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and was heavily involved in ACI and Nebraska Department of Transportation certification programs.

In 2013, Kyle and his father co-founded Concrete Cares of Nebraska, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Nebraska families battling cancer. Since its inception, Concrete Cares has donated more than \$800,000 to families across the state and has led meaningful community projects, including a home renovation for a family whose daughter was fighting brain cancer.

Shortly after helping establish Concrete Cares, Kyle himself was diagnosed with cancer in 2014. He faced a long and difficult battle over the next 11 years, enduring numerous complications related to both the disease and its treatments. Through it all, Kyle never complained and continued to serve others with humility and grace.

In addition to his work with ACI and Concrete Cares, Kyle served on the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association Board of Directors, including a term as president in 2016, and was serving as vice president at the time of his passing. His dedication was recognized through numerous honors, including the ACI International Chapter Activities Award in 2025, the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association Presidential Award in 2012, and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association Concrete Cares Award in 2021.

Kyle Poff was a truly remarkable man whose legacy of service, leadership, and compassion will continue to impact the concrete industry and communities across Nebraska for years to come.

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



## PAPILLION CLEARWELL & ACCESSORY BUILDING

To strengthen long-term water storage and system efficiency, the City of Papillion expanded its water treatment infrastructure with a second clearwell and a new accessory building.

The clearwell includes a cast-in-place concrete floor, prestressed concrete walls, and a cast-in-place dome roof designed to protect potable water while ensuring long-term durability. Precast concrete panels were used for the accessory building to accelerate construction without sacrificing strength or aesthetics.

Despite unforeseen storm damage, early coordination and close collaboration among the owner, designer, and contractor kept the project on track – reaching substantial completion nearly three months ahead of schedule and delivering resilient infrastructure for the community.

**Owner:**

City of Papillion

**Architect & Engineer:**

HDR

**General Contractor:**

Sampson Construction

**Concrete Contractors:**

Preload; Kratos Concrete Specialists

**Concrete Suppliers:**

Platte River Concrete;  
Lyman-Richey Corporation

**Precast Supplier:**

Coreslab Structures



See more photos of this project on our website: [www.acinebraska.org/awards](http://www.acinebraska.org/awards)

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



## JOSLYN ART MUSEUM EXPANSION Exposed Aggregate Sidewalks

As part of the Joslyn Art Museum expansion in Omaha, exposed aggregate concrete sidewalks became a defining architectural feature within the museum's sculpture gardens.

More than 23,000 square feet of exposed aggregate concrete were placed across multiple pours using a custom mix with locally sourced limestone to achieve the desired color and texture. Extensive mockups, precise joint layout, and careful finishing ensured visual consistency in changing weather conditions.

The finished surfaces enhance durability, improve slip resistance, and elevate the overall visitor experience – demonstrating how thoughtful concrete design can transform outdoor spaces.

**Owner:**

The Joslyn

**Landscape Architect**

Snøhetta

**General Contractor:**

Kiewit Building Group

**Contractor:**

Stephens & Smith Construction Co., Inc.

**Concrete Supplier:**

Concrete Supply Company



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# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



## LAURITZEN GARDENS - Children's Garden

At Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, the Children's Garden uses concrete not only as a durable walking surface, but also as a central design element that sparks imagination and play.

The project features an impressive range of decorative techniques, including integral color, sandblasting, stamping, embedded glass, sawcut patterns, and exposed aggregate. Tight site access, complex sequencing, and off-site fabrication demanded exceptional coordination and craftsmanship.

Daily collaboration among the owner, designers, and contractors ensured the finished space is safe, durable, and visually engaging – a place where creativity and construction come together.

**Owner:**

Lauritzen Gardens

**Engineer:**

Thompson, Dreessen & Dorner, Inc.

**Architect:**

AO

**General Contractor:**

Vrana General Contractors

**Concrete Contractor:**

Daedalus Construction Company

**Concrete Supplier:**

Lyman-Richey Corporation



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# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



## UNL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING - Kiewit Hall

Kiewit Hall serves as a dynamic new academic hub for engineering education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, showcasing both structural performance and architectural expression in concrete.

The project included large-scale polished concrete floors, sidewalks, vehicular paving, and cast-in-place walls that double as seating. Exterior sandblasted concrete bands add texture and rhythm to the façade, reinforcing the building’s modern identity.

By combining high-volume structural slabs with carefully designed site elements, the project delivers durable, functional spaces that support learning, collaboration, and campus life.

**Owner:**

University of Nebraska

**Architect:**

Clark Enersen Partners

**Structural Engineer:**

Clark Enersen Partners

**General Contractor:**

Kiewit Building Group

**Concrete Contractor:**

Heartland Concrete & Construction Inc.

**Concrete Supplier:**

Ready Mixed Concrete



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# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



## WINNEBAGO TRIBE OF NEBRASKA - Emergency Services Building

This 25,000-square-foot emergency services facility brings together fire, EMS, and disaster response operations for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska in a single resilient structure.

Precast concrete was selected for its durability, speed of construction, and ability to support long-span apparatus bays. Cultural identity is reflected through textured precast panels and embedded brickwork, while cast-in-place and polished concrete floors expose local aggregates and support heavy emergency vehicles with integrated heating systems.

The project demonstrates how concrete can unify resilience, cultural meaning, and operational performance.

**Owner:**

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

**Architect & Structural Engineer:**

LEO A DALY

**Civil Engineer:**

Lamp Rynearson

**General Contractor:**

MCL Construction

**Concrete Supplier:**

Lyman-Richey Corporation

**Precast Supplier:**

Gage Brothers Concrete Products



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## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



### ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPUS

The St. Patrick Catholic Church campus in Omaha blends tradition with growth through extensive use of cast stone, architectural precast, and GFRC elements.

Varying stone textures and colors reflect the campus's evolution while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic. Precast and GFRC components frame artwork, arches, and liturgical spaces, supporting both architectural vision and construction efficiency. Concrete pavers and site elements further celebrate the project's Irish heritage.

The result is a timeless campus rooted in craftsmanship, symbolism, and thoughtful material expression.

**Owner:**

St. Patrick Catholic Church

**Architect:**

RDG Planning & Design

**Structural Engineer:**

Thompson, Dressen & Dorner, Inc.

**General Contractor:**

MCL Construction

**Masonry Contractor:**

Kehm Contractors Inc.

**Precast Supplier:**

Artisan Stone Company, Inc.



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# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



## UNL GLENN KORFF SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Glenn Korff School of Music at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln pairs expressive architecture with advanced concrete engineering.

Custom architectural precast panels incorporate integrated shading geometry into the façade, improving performance while adding depth and visual interest. Inside, 50-foot-tall monolithic concrete walls were placed using advanced techniques and real-time monitoring, enhancing constructability and efficiency.

This project highlights exceptional collaboration and innovation, resulting in an iconic facility that celebrates both music and concrete craftsmanship.

**Owner:**

University of Nebraska

**Architect:**

Sinclair Hille Architects / BNIM

**Structural Engineer:**

Structural Design Group

**General Contractor:**

Hausmann Construction

**Concrete Supplier:**

Ready Mixed Concrete

**Precast Supplier:**

Enterprise Precast Concrete



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## 2026 ACI Nebraska Chapter Board of Directors and Officers



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