The Knowledge to Practice Award is given to an ACI Foundation volunteer who has shown exceptional dedication to our mission. This award recognizes an outstanding individual who has driven the Foundation further with their dedication in time, engagement, and commitment. This year, the award was presented to Michael J. Schneider, FACI, who is the Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer at Baker Concrete Construction, Inc., Monroe, OH, USA. Schneider has been highly engaged with the ACI Foundation and its councils for over a decade, most recently as the ACI Foundation Chair. Schneider is an active, long-time member of the Concrete Research Council (CRC) and a past Chair of the Strategic Development Council (SDC), and he has worked with the Scholarship Council on ensuring recurring commitments for the three Baker Fellowships since their inception in 2008. He is currently serving his third year on the ACI Foundation Development Committee. In this role, he has worked with the ACI Greater Miami Valley Chapter to secure over $40,000 in matching funds for the ACI Foundation. He also recently met with several past ACI presidents to discuss the growth, opportunities, and programs of the ACI Foundation. Schneider has long made charitable contributions to the Foundation, and he has successfully engaged all members of both the ACI Board and the ACI Foundation Trustees to follow his lead. He continues to help build and sustain a culture of philanthropy within the organization through cultivation and stewardship while dedicating time and attention to helping students and researchers, and to advancing innovation in the concrete industry.

In addition to Schneider’s success with the Foundation, he also served as ACI President from 2016-2017 and has served as the Chair of several ACI committees, including the Construction Liaison Committee, ETC Product Development, and Construction Award Committee. He has been a member of many ACI Board committees, including Awards for Papers, Chapter Activities Committee, Convention Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, and International Advisory Committee.

The Jean-Claude Roumain Innovation in Concrete Award, presented by the ACI Foundation’s SDC, was established in 2010 to recognize individuals who have made contributions to the improvement of manufactured materials used in the production of concrete, and who have developed innovative ways to use new and existing materials, improved concrete construction and serviceability, and contributed to a sustainable built environment. The 2021 award recipient is Claude Bédard, FACI, President of Euclid Admixture Canada Inc., Saint-Hubert, QC, Canada, and Vice President of Admixture Marketing of The Euclid Chemical Company, Cleveland, OH, USA. He has been active in the concrete industry for nearly 40 years and has been associated with Euclid for more than 30 years.

The Arthur J. Boase Award, presented by the ACI Foundation’s CRC, was first awarded in 1971 in recognition of outstanding activities and achievements in the reinforced concrete field. Antonio Nanni, FACI, Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, USA, received this year’s award. During the past 30+ years, Nanni has studied concrete and advanced composite-based systems as the principal investigator on several research projects sponsored by federal and state agencies and private industry. His research in materials and structures has impacted the work of several technical committees in the United States and abroad.

The Robert E. Philleo Award of the ACI Foundation’s CRC, established in 1992, is given in recognition of a person, persons, or an organization for outstanding research in the concrete materials field, or for outstanding contributions to the advancement of concrete technology through application of the results of concrete materials research. The most recent award recipient is Michael D.A. Thomas, FACI, a Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Fredericton, NB, Canada. He has been working in the field of cement and concrete research since 1983. Prior to joining UNB in 2002, he had been on the faculty at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, since 1994. Before that, he worked as a Concrete Materials Engineer with Ontario Hydro in Canada (1991-1993) and as a Research Fellow with the Building Research Establishment in the UK (1986-1991).