Annual Request for Concrete Research Proposals Now Open

The ACI Foundation’s Concrete Research Council (CRC) seeks to advance the concrete industry through the funding of concrete research projects that further the knowledge and sustainability of concrete materials, construction, and structures. The annual request for proposals is open now through December 1, 2021.

Proposal and funding parameters include:
• Topics are encouraged from all areas of concrete research;
• Up to $50,000 may be approved per project for direct costs;
• The ACI Foundation limits research organization indirect costs to 15%;
• An ACI technical committee must support the research concept and participate in an advisory role to the principal investigator;
• An individual researcher can serve as the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on only one submitted proposal;
• Industry partnering and project cost sharing are strongly encouraged; and
• All proposals must be submitted before the December 1, 2021, deadline.

 Principal investigators must follow the requirements in the “RFP Application Guide” at www.acifoundation.org/Portals/12/Files/PDFs/RFP-Application-Guide.pdf, including the requirement to contact ACI technical committee Chairs by September 17, 2021, to request an endorsement of the proposed research.

Additional information is available at www.acifoundation.org/research.

Recently Funded Research

The ACI Foundation has become a major funder of the Charles Pankow Foundation (CPF). The award of a new research grant to the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA, and Principal Investigator John W. Wallace will support conducting large-scale testing on ordinary reinforced concrete walls with C-shaped and rectangular cross sections to develop performance-based wind design (PBWD) recommendations for ACI Committees 375, Performance-Based Design of Concrete Buildings for Wind Loads, and 318, Structural Concrete Building Code. The outcome of this research is vital to implementing PBWD in practice.

The industry advisory panel for this research includes:
• David Fields, Magnuson Klemencic Associates;
• Tony Ghodsi, Englekirk;
• Ron Klemencic, Magnuson Klemencic Associates;
• Brad Malmsten, Thornton Tomasetti;
• Ian McFarlane, Magnuson Klemencic Associates;
• Viral Patel, Walter P Moore;
• Thomas Sabol, Englekirk; and
• Fernando Torrealva, Walter P Moore.

Generous Industry Donors Fund Three New ACI Foundation Awards

The ACI Foundation offers three new awards: Master Builders Solutions Concrete Materials Scholarship, Nicholas F. Maloof Jr. Georgia Chapter ACI Fellowship, and Nick Bada ACI Ontario Chapter Graduate Scholarship. These awards will further the ACI Foundation’s mission of funding students and nurturing the future of concrete.

Master Builders Solutions Concrete Materials Scholarship will be awarded to graduate students pursuing an advanced degree related to the concrete industry with a focus on materials science. Applications will be considered from candidates who are studying the use of admixtures (such as fibers and water reducers) to advance the use of concrete.
Knowledge to Practice: Nicholas F. Maloof Jr. Georgia Chapter ACI Fellowship

The Nicholas F. Maloof Jr. Georgia Chapter ACI Fellowship will be awarded to graduate or undergraduate students studying an advanced degree related to the concrete industry with a focus on construction or building material sciences. Applications will be considered from candidates who are graduates of a Georgia school (high school or undergraduate). Further preference will be given to candidates who are dependents of Georgia residents.

Nick Bada ACI Ontario Chapter Graduate Scholarship

The Nick Bada ACI Ontario Chapter Graduate Scholarship will be awarded to any student who has completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher-education institute. At the time of acceptance of this award (but not necessarily at the time of application), the applicant must have been accepted for graduate study. The graduate program must be in concrete research or concrete construction at an accredited university in Ontario, Canada—Lakehead University, Laurentian University, McMaster University, Queen's University, Royal Military College of Canada, Ryerson University, University of Guelph, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, or Western University—that offers a graduate program in concrete design or construction. The student must be a full-time graduate student during the entire scholarship award term.

Impact of Research Funding

In 2014, the ACI Foundation funded the research project “Serviceability Behavior of Reinforced Concrete Discontinuity Regions.” Research grant recipient Robin Tuchscherer has been involved with ACI since his undergraduate years and is currently a member of several ACI committees, including Joint ACI-ASCE Subcommittee 445-A, Shear & Torsion-Strut & Tie.

Tuchscherer is an Associate Professor at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, USA. He began his career as an engineer in Wisconsin before attending graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA, to obtain his master's and PhD degrees. Following graduate school, he continued his career in engineering in Austin. In 2011, Tuchscherer settled down in Flagstaff, where he currently resides.

“The ACI Foundation grant helped me personally and professionally, and also helped my student researcher…This small $10,000 grant really made a huge impact as far as helping to grow something from nothing and to get our foot in the door,” Tuchscherer said.

Since 2014, CRC has grown and is now able to award up to $50,000 per project for direct costs. Learn more on how CRC can support your research at www.acifoundation.org/research.

CRC’s annual request for proposals is open now through December 1, 2021.

Three new ACI Foundation awards further the mission of funding students.

Supported by the ACI Foundation, the Charles Pankow Foundation has funded large-scale testing on ordinary reinforced concrete walls with C-shaped and rectangular cross sections to develop performance-based wind design recommendations.