

ACI Foundation Announces the Kenneth C. Hover Honorary Fellowship



Hover

The ACI Foundation announced a new sustained Fellowship in honor of Kenneth C. Hover. His past and present teaching, communication, research, and consulting activities have positively influenced several thousands of individuals in the concrete industry community and enhanced our knowledge about concrete.

The ACI Foundation has received \$50,000 in seed money from generous donors in

honor of Hover's life-long contributions to the concrete industry. A campaign was started to raise additional funds to extend the award indefinitely to deserving students. The ACI Foundation will campaign to raise additional funds to extend the award indefinitely to deserving students.

Hover has a unique ability to communicate complex technical concepts in a clear and captivating manner. ACI Past President Tony Fiorato said, "He is without question one of the preeminent educators in the civil engineering community and the concrete construction industry." Whether teaching students and engineering professionals or training construction personnel, Hover is one of the most sought-after educators in the industry. He is among the highest-rated speakers at World of Concrete, and his seminars often sell out. At World of Concrete in 2006, he was named "one

The ACI Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, established by ACI as part of its commitment to support students' education in concrete-related degrees and concrete research and innovation.

of the 10 most influential people in the U.S. concrete industry."

Hover is a Professor of civil and environmental engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, where his teaching and research focus on concrete materials, design, and construction. Before starting his PhD at Cornell, he worked in construction roles ranging from an estimator to a Project Manager and at a consulting engineering firm as a designer, specifications writer, and eventually Partner and Manager. This distinctive combination of experiences, plus his engaging teaching style, have catapulted him to enormous success as a teacher, guide, authority, mentor, and friend.

Hover's classes balance the theory behind design with a real-world understanding of constructability and construction practices. A former student of Hover's, Keith Kesner, FACI,

Senior Project Manager at CVM Engineers, and ACI Foundation Trustee, stated, "The best way to describe Hover's teaching comes from something I heard a former Cornell president say—'Cornell is a place where excellence in teaching is expected every day.' Hover lived up to that ideal, excellence in the classroom every day; he always brought his A-game."

His emphasis on practical application is the hallmark of his teaching. It has been 20 years since Jennifer A. Grubb was one of his students, but she still remembers that he was the first person to teach about constructability and how to handle yourself on a jobsite. She added, "He has an amazing ability to not just recognize the potential in his students but to make us feel it ourselves."

"There is no greater contribution to the profession than the transfer of knowledge to the next generation of industry personnel," said ACI Past President Tony Fiorato.

Hands-on lab experience to demonstrate theoretical concepts and practice of actual construction, construction management course exams with tapes of tool noise in the background, and flying candy bars and koosh balls during seminars—Hover's methods keep the audience engaged and the content accessible to all types of learners.

Hover has been a consultant for many industry entities, helping with technical aspects of concrete construction projects, and keeping companies up-to-date on new technology. Mike Schneider, ACI Past President and ACI Foundation Trustee, and Vice President of Baker Concrete Construction, Inc., represents one of those companies that retained Hover as a consultant. Schneider applauds Hover's versatility. Besides the technical knowledge of concrete and an accessible communication style, Hover is also a strong advocate for safety. "Safety is a priority for Hover," Schneider said. "And because of this passion for laboratory safety at the college level, we co-authored two articles that addressed school laboratory safety issues."

His over 200 publications on concrete materials and durability are notable in that they are clearly written and have actionable recommendations. It is for these reasons that his findings have been implemented in practice through ACI and ASTM standard specifications, including

the ACI 318 Building Code. His impact undoubtedly reflects the time he spent working in construction before moving on to academic life.

Hover has earned Cornell University's top teaching awards in civil engineering. An ACI Past President and Honorary Member, he has received ACI's Clyde E. Kesler Education Award, Structural Research Award, Arthur R. Anderson Medal, and the ACI Foundation Robert E. Philleo Research Award. Hover also received the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Gaynor Award and the ACPA Educators Award. He is a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Concrete Technology in the United Kingdom. He is a licensed professional engineer in Ohio and New York.

Hover was one of the first student awardees of an ACI scholarship back in the 1980s. It has now come full circle—he has a fellowship in his name that will support other students who wish to make an impact as educators or practitioners in the field of concrete. The award will be given to a graduate or undergraduate student studying in any concrete-related field. The award funding will be distributed in increments of \$15,000 to one student annually. The fund will be expended each year as follows: \$10,000 educational stipend to a student to cover tuition, books, supplies, and \$5000 to cover expenses to attend three ACI Concrete Conventions, one of which will include an in-person interview with the Scholarship Council.

To contribute to the Kenneth C. Hover Honorary Fellowship and for more information, visit www.acifoundation.org/giving or contact Kari Martin, ACI Foundation Fundraising Manager, at kari.martin@acifoundation.org or +1.248.848.3757.

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