

## Major Donor Spotlight—Baker Concrete Construction

The ACI Foundation is a non-profit subsidiary of ACI. The Foundation supports ACI's vision and mission in three main ways:

- Funding concrete-related research;
- Identifying new technology and innovations, helping to support their implementation if appropriate; and
- Managing a fellowship and scholarship program for students studying in a concrete-related degree program.

The work that the Foundation does absolutely could not be accomplished without industry support and donors who are passionate about building the future of the concrete industry. Baker Concrete Construction (Baker Concrete) has long been a supporter of the ACI Foundation's programs, and the Foundation offers its gracious appreciation to them.

Baker Concrete was founded in Oxford, OH, USA, in 1968, by Dan Baker and his brothers, Ken and Jim. Dan learned the concrete finisher's trade from his grandfather, Elmer Baker, and he grounded the business on the principles Elmer instilled in him: excellence, hard work, service, and integrity.

*“We [Baker Concrete] will move forward with balance and make lasting contributions to our people, our communities, and the construction industry”*

*—Dan Baker*

Everything done at Baker Concrete is rooted in what is referred to as “The Baker Way.” The Baker Way philosophy ensures that the goals, decisions, and actions focus on building a better future for everyone who comes in contact with Baker Concrete.

Baker Concrete recognizes that the work extends beyond the projects it completes. The company has worked to leave a legacy that speaks not just to the quality of the job but to its values as well. Baker Concrete is committed to operating in a way that reduces impacts on the environment and improves the health of the communities where we all live and work.

Baker Concrete's values complement the ACI Foundation's mission, which is to make strategic investments in ideas,

In 2022, through the White House Federal Buy Clean Initiative, Baker Concrete was recognized as a leader in sustainability for its partnership with NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete. Through NEU, Baker Concrete is collaborating with other organizations to develop safe and cost-effective strategies for producing and placing more sustainable concrete at scale.

research, and people to create the future of the concrete industry. The ACI Foundation and Baker Concrete have partnered for over 30 years on various activities that are helping to build the future of the concrete industry. *Thank you, Dan, and the rest of Baker Concrete, for your encouragement, resources, and insight that have helped to sustain and guide our programs.*

Baker Concrete has provided volunteer and funding support to both the ACI Foundation's Concrete Research Council and the former Strategic Development Council (now Concrete Innovation Council), giving insight and guidance on research, innovation, and new technology. This support has helped provide solutions for the concrete industry, such as building information modeling (BIM), durability and repair solutions, performance specifications, alternative cements, high-strength reinforcement, constructability, productivity, and sustainability.

Baker Concrete has adopted sustainable management and construction practices, such as using sustainably sourced materials, recycling and reducing construction waste, and tracking the use of environmental product declarations. With an aim toward reducing embodied carbon in its projects, Baker Concrete educates its staff, works with project owners on their environmental goals, and collaborates within the industry. For example, Baker Concrete was the inaugural member of NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete.



Dan Baker

In 2008, Dan Baker committed to encouraging young people to join the concrete industry and ACI, bringing major growth in the ACI Foundation's student program. To help attract the best and the brightest students to our industry, he was one of the fellowship program's founding donors and developers. To support students studying in a concrete-related degree program, the fellowship program

has grown from three initial fellowships to 31. Currently, Baker Concrete funds three of those fellowships annually and



Baker Concrete is collaborating on cost-effective strategies for producing and placing more sustainable concrete

was a major funder of a fourth, where awarded students receive \$10,000 in educational support, paid expenses to attend ACI Concrete Conventions in their award year, access to an industry mentor, and a possible internship. Baker Concrete has assisted 27 students since the program started.

The construction industry also faces a shortage of skilled workers, and Baker Concrete has encouraged the next generation to join the industry. Baker Concrete frequently partners with high schools, tech schools, and workforce development programs to get students interested in construction. The company recently launched its Construction Boot Camp at the BEAM facility in Monroe, OH.

Baker Concrete takes pride in contributing to communities through in-kind services, special events, and programs, as well as creating sustainable solutions for the world. The ACI Foundation is proud to count Baker Concrete as a donor and friend in the concrete industry.

Other major donor spotlights will be included in future issues. For more information about the ACI Foundation, visit [www.acifoundation.org](http://www.acifoundation.org) or call +1.248.848.3144 to talk with Ann Masek, Executive Director.

Baker Concrete specializes in pre-construction, construction, and project management services. The company provides expertise in civil, commercial, industrial, institutional, multi-family residential, and mission-critical buildings, and has over 5500 employees across the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Baker Concrete's values bring focus to innovation, worker safety, and sustainability.

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