

Donor Spotlight: Pete Barlow

A journey through concrete and generosity

Pete Barlow, FACI, began his journey in the concrete industry with a family connection. “I got my start through my father’s business connections at a company that specialized in repairing cracked concrete and was an innovator in the epoxy injection process,” he recounted. With a keen interest in construction, Barlow harnessed this early experience to develop a deep understanding of concrete and concrete repair, which has become a central focus of his career and contributions to ACI.

Barlow became a member of ACI in the late 1980s following encouragement from his boss, who was an active participant in the organization. Over the years, his commitment to the field grew, leading him to take roles within several committees. “One of my proudest moments was the completion of ACI PRC-ITG-11-24: Statistical Techniques for Assessment of Existing Concrete Structures—Report,” he reflected. “It produced a significant document [that is] considered a valuable resource in our field.”

The value of ACI and the ACI Foundation

Barlow believes that ACI serves a vital role in the concrete industry by offering extensive knowledge and educational resources. “The diversity of committees reflects the many facets of concrete construction,” he explained. “By providing targeted education and resources, ACI elevates industry standards and practices across the board.”

Complementing ACI’s efforts, the ACI Foundation plays a role in supporting research, scholarships, and program initiatives. Barlow, who has become more involved with the Foundation, recognizes its significance. “The Foundation helps facilitate critical research and provides resources that benefit both individuals and the industry at large,” he emphasized. “I’ve seen how funds support initiatives like [ACI Innovation Task Group] ITG-12, focusing on emerging technologies such as three-dimensional printing, which is essential for our evolving industry.”

Commitment to giving back

For Barlow, giving back is not just an obligation, it’s a personal mission. “I’ve built a successful career and feel it’s important to give back to the industry that has supported me,” he stated. He appreciates opportunities to contribute, especially the CMEC Veteran Rebate Program and ACI Foundation scholarship program. “Helping young people through scholarships is particularly meaningful,” he noted. “I believe in nurturing the next generation.”

When donating, Barlow values specificity. “I prefer to support initiatives that resonate personally with me.” He finds

fulfillment in targeting his contributions toward programs that support those in need, viewing philanthropy not just as a transaction but as a pathway to making a genuine impact.

Concluding reflections

As a longtime member and active participant in ACI, Barlow exemplifies commitment and generosity, continually contributing to the growth of the concrete industry. His story serves as an inspiration for both seasoned professionals and the next generation of concrete specialists. “It’s about being present and engaged, whether it’s your time, expertise, or financial support,” he concluded. “By supporting initiatives that open doors for others, we collectively strengthen the foundation of our industry.”

For more information or to get involved, visit www.acifoundation.org.



Keith Kesner, FACI, and Pete Barlow, FACI (right), at the ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2025 in Toronto, ON, Canada

Donor Spotlight: Master Builders Solutions

The ACI Foundation had the opportunity to discuss the vision and values of Master Builders Solutions with Bruce Christensen, President, who shared insights into the organization’s significant contributions to the concrete industry.

Christensen’s journey into the concrete sector began in graduate school, where he received his PhD in cement chemistry at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, USA. His academic background and dedication led him to a 25-year career with Master Builders Solutions.

Championing sustainability

As the industry evolves, sustainability has emerged as a primary concern for concrete producers. “Carbon reduction and water conservation are paramount,” Christensen stated. He believes that Master Builders Solutions is well positioned



Christensen

to help lead in this area due to its proactive approach toward developing environmentally focused solutions. “Before the market demanded it, we were already innovating for the future to help our customers reduce the carbon footprint of their concrete mixtures,” he shared. Christensen envisions a future where sustainability becomes central to all construction practices. “While concrete

will remain the preferred building material, we must adapt to new challenges in sustainability,” he emphasized.

The challenge of workforce development

Another critical issue highlighted by Christensen is attracting talent to the concrete industry. “The concrete industry isn’t always viewed as high-tech or as glamorous as the tech or medical fields,” he noted. To help attract new young workers to the construction industry, Master Builders Solutions supports educational programs, such as the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program, to showcase the diverse opportunities within the concrete sector.

“The CIM program provides students with practical experiences, bridging the gap between education and employment,” Christensen explained. “We want to ensure that students understand the vast potential of a career in concrete and that it is innovative and high-tech, especially now with artificial intelligence.”

Collaborating with the ACI Foundation

Master Builders Solutions has a longstanding partnership with the ACI Foundation, demonstrating its commitment to education and research in the concrete sector. Christensen reminisced about his interactions with ACI, recounting how the relationship has evolved over the years. “We’re proud to support the scholarship program, which fosters the next generation of industry leaders,” he affirmed.

When asked about the future, Christensen expressed optimism. “Our company sees value in continuing to support initiatives that align with our mission,” he said. “We aim to create a strong connection between scholarship recipients and industry experiences that will benefit both parties.”

Concluding thoughts

Master Builders Solutions, under Christensen’s leadership, continues to pioneer ideas that address industry challenges while fostering sustainable practices. The collaboration with the ACI Foundation highlights its commitment to building a brighter, more sustainable future for the concrete industry.

“We will remain engaged with ACI because it represents a

vital pillar in our industry,” Christensen concluded. The partnership symbolizes a shared vision—advancing the concrete sector through innovation, education, and commitment to sustainable practices. As Master Builders Solutions looks toward the future, it continues to pave the way for a resilient and responsible concrete industry.

Plan Your Legacy

Have you thought about the advancement of the concrete industry in the years to come? The ACI Foundation programs focus on building the future of the concrete industry and rely on organizations and individuals like you who want to pay it forward and give back to the industry that you helped advance and for which you have a passion.

- A gift to the ACI Foundation is an opportunity to invest in the next generation of leaders, new technical knowledge, and innovation.
- A gift to the ACI Foundation as part of your financial plan, whether through your estate, will, donor-advised fund, cash, stocks, bonds, insurance, or other retirement assets, will carry your technical legacy into the future of the concrete industry.

It’s never too early to plan your legacy. To start the conversation, contact Kari Martin, ACI Foundation Fundraising Manager, at +1.248.848.3757 or kari.martin@acifoundation.org.

Tribute Donations

Honor the memory of someone who made a significant impact in your life with a tribute donation to the ACI Foundation. Your gift will preserve their legacy while also making a positive impact on the industry. A tribute donation lays the groundwork for a bright future while honoring the past. Donate online at www.acifoundation.org/giving.

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