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Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Students Spend Summer on Alcatraz Island

Silver Spring, Md. (July 13, 2010) – Five select students from the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program at California State University (CSU) are living in restored officers' barracks in the Marin Headlands and are full-time National Park volunteers on Alcatraz Island.

With funding through an award from the 2010 Cultural Resource Stewardship Grant Program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and generous support from BASF, the students started working with the National Parks Service (NPS) personnel on this venture June 7. The CIM program is a business intensive curriculum that awards students with a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management, and this program is the launch of the program's first CIM Field School initiative.

Throughout the 10-week internship, the students will be working to evaluate, preserve and repair deteriorated concrete structures, some of which date back to the 1850s. The Field School is co-directed by Tanya Wattenburg Komars, Director of the Chico State CIM program, and Jason N. Hagin, NPS Historical Architect. Students Andrew Billingsley, Stig Strombeck, Jonathan Hall, Bryan James and Trevor Prater have been selected to represent the CIM program and the College of Engineering throughout this summer's pilot program. They are working with CSU Chico faculty, including Professor Komars and Professor David Shirah, invited industry experts, and NPS personnel to perform historic concrete evaluation, repairs and structural analysis. The team is also

analyzing and preparing project scopes of work for both future CIM Field School students and the National Parks Service personnel to perform.

While on Alcatraz Island, the five students will be completing a mandatory internship requirement that is designed to immerse students in a real and practical work place, better preparing them for technical and managerial work upon completion of their CIM degree.

This opportunity has been funded by a cultural resources stewardship grant through the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and generous contributions by CIM patron supporters, including BASF as a major sponsor. CSU and GGNRA plan to extend this pilot program to an annual project, allowing a continuing program through which University students work side-by-side with experts that represent both the cultural and structural facets of the concrete repair and preservation industries. This opportunity extends the sustainability focus of the Chico State CIM program through first-hand experience with construction practices, applications, methods and materials that lead to environmentally-friendly, culturally responsible and durable new structures and rehabilitation of existing structures.

“A successful pilot program this year will set the stage for future years of the Field School. The student team has done a tremendous job thus far in dealing professionally, skillfully, and sensitively with the technical, historical, ecological, archaeological, logistical, and a myriad of other concerns that we are dealing with on a daily basis working on a National Historic Landmark Island in the middle of the San Francisco Bay,” said Komars. In order to avoid busy tourist hours, the team spent an all-night work session on the Island July 8 in order to move materials and prepare an area in the Prison Recreation Yard for repairs that will take place July 14-16 using specialized BASF materials.

The Golden Gate National Park stretches 70 miles north and south of the Golden Gate Bridge, creating an 80,400 acre greenbelt along the Pacific Ocean. The parks include ancient redwoods, historic landmarks, miles of trails, rocky shorelines, rare and endangered species, lush coastal wilderness and breathtaking vistas. Each year, millions of people visit the Golden Gate National Parks to experience the nature, history and scenic beauty that truly define the character of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The CIM Program

Recognizing the need for people with enhanced technical, communication and management skills, the CIM program was developed in 1996. The individuals graduating from this program will have the skill set necessary to meet the growing demands of the progressively changing concrete industry of the 21st century. The program gives students many advantages including entering the concrete work force with exposure to the industry early in their careers, unlike others coming in with generic business degrees.

The goal of the program is to produce broadly educated, articulate graduates grounded in basic business management, who are knowledgeable of concrete technology and techniques and are able to manage people and systems as well as promote products or services related to the concrete industry. It entails a broad range of courses, from English and history to science and mathematics. A series of required business courses such as finance, marketing, management and business law are also taken throughout the length of the program. The concrete-specific courses teach the fundamentals of concrete, properties and testing, concrete construction and more. All of these courses provide much more than what is simply in the text – they emphasize problem solving, quality assurance and customer satisfaction. They utilize practical case studies and an internship to make sure the student obtains real-world experience essential to starting a successful career. Additional opportunities for growth include on-campus socials and other organized events providing industry networking and professional development.

About CIM

Receiving tremendous support from the concrete industry, the CIM program was the first of its kind in United States – a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management. The need for such a program was recognized in 1994 and was put into action by the concrete industry. The end-result was a partnership between the concrete industry and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to develop the CIM program, implementing it with its first two students in 1996. Available at MTSU, Arizona State University, California State University, Chico, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Texas State University, the program has been successful for both the industry and the graduates. To learn more about the program, visit www.concretedegree.com.