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## **Concrete Industry Management Program's National Steering Committee Announces New Board**

Alexandria, VA. (Sept. 28, 2023) – The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program – a business-intensive program that awards students with a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management – recently announced the appointments of seven new members to its board of directors.

The NSC officers include:

- Chairman – Karl Watson, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Baker Construction Enterprises
- Vice Chairman – Steven Cox, Vice President – Customer Success, Command Alkon
- Secretary/Treasurer – Nicole Maher, Chief Operating Officer, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)

All officers also serve on the board of directors.

In addition to the officers, the NSC board of directors includes:

- Steven Bishop\*\*, President/COO, Maschmeyer Concrete Company of Florida
- Heather Brown\*\*, Vice President of QC/QA, Irving Materials, Inc.
- Bruce Christensen, Vice President, Admixture Systems, Master Builders Solutions
- Rex Cottle - Executive Director, CIM
- Kelly Curtis, Senior Vice President, Cement Sales & Logistics, Votorantim Cement North America

- Paula Dunn\*\*, Director, Learning and Development, Sika Corporation
- Frank Flatch, Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Counsel, Silvi Group Companies
- Brian Gallagher\*\*, Vice President, Corporate Development, Graycor
- Julie Garbini, Executive Director, Concrete Advancement Foundation
- Douglas Guerrero, Chairman, CIM Patrons, California State University, Chico
- Marti Harrell, Executive Director, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute Georgia/Carolina Region
- Nicole Maher, Chief Operating Officer, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
- Guillermo Martinez Sans, Executive Vice President Human Resources USA, CEMEX
- John McDougall\*\*, Director of Business Development, Baker Restoration & Waterproofing
- Paul Ozinga, Executive Vice President, Ozinga RMC, Inc.
- Andrew Pinkerton\*\*, Executive Director, Cement Council of Texas
- Ben Robuck\*\*, Vice President - Infrastructure and Direct Work, CEMEX
- Mike Schneider, Vice President, Chief People Officer (CPO), Baker Concrete Construction, Inc. (Immediate Past Chairman)
- Aaron Snowdon, Director of Information Technology, Digital Products, Heidelberg Materials
- Tom Strittmatter, Senior Vice President – Construction Chemicals, Sika Corporation
- Pierre Villere, Chairman & Senior Managing Partner, Allen-Villere Partners
- Tim Wrinkle, Product Manager, Mack Trucks

*\*\* Indicates new board members.*

Honorary Directors Include:

- David Vickers, Permian Basin Materials, LLC
- Earl Keese, CIM National Steering Committee
- L. Michael Shydrowski, BASF Corporation

"For more than 25 years, the leadership of the concrete industry has embraced and supported the mission of the NSC for CIM of 'advancing the concrete industry by degrees'," said NSC

Executive Director Rex Cottle. “Many major companies in the concrete industry, along with most national concrete associations and foundations, have pledged their time, talent and treasures to CIM through their involvement in the NSC. Those industry leaders who serve on our board of directors are a testament to their commitment to the continued success of CIM.”

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a business-intensive program, providing solid management skills that can be used in any industry, but has been developed specifically for the concrete industry. The program gives students many advantages including entering the concrete workforce 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 these courses 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 is the first of its kind in the 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 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, California State University, Chico, the New Jersey

Institute of Technology, South Dakota State University 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](http://www.concretedegree.com).

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