

7TH ANNUAL ACI HOUSTON CHAPTER CONCRETE SYMPOSIUM



13 THURSDAY
AUGUST
2026
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM



Norris Conference Center at City Centre
816 Town & Country Blvd. Suite 210
Houston, TX 77024

The ACI Houston Chapter is pleased to announce the 7th Annual Concrete Symposium! Breakfast, lunch, breaks, and a certificate for **6.0 Professional Development Hours (1.0 qualifies for Ethics)** are included with registration. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with fellow professionals in the concrete community. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 7, 2026.**

PRESENTATIONS



Strengthening and Repair of Prestressed Concrete Beams

Hamidreza Tahsiri, Ph.D., P.E.
& Jonathan Warshaw, P.E.
Walker Consultants



Concrete Pavements: We Are Houston

Elizabeth (Lisa) Lukefahr, P.E.
Texas Concrete Pavement Association



Designing, Detailing, and Constructing Concrete Floors on Ground

Bryan Birdwell, FACI
Structural Services, Inc.
& David Buzzelli, FACI
Texas A&M Concrete



On Our Minds: Caring for our Mental Health

Michael Schneider
Michael Schneider Consulting, LLC



Who Is Responsible? Clarifying Accountability in Concrete Construction

Joseph Klein, P.E.
Pivot Engineers



A Real Life Anti-Trust Concrete Story

Christopher Tull, P.E.
CRT Concrete Consulting, LLC

REGISTRATION FEES

ACI HOUSTON CHAPTER MEMBERS:
NON-MEMBERS:

Early Bird

\$200

\$250

After 7/31

\$275

\$325

**REGISTER
NOW**

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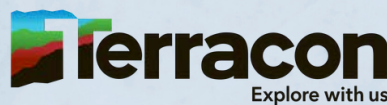


TABLE TOP SPONSOR - \$500 (8 Remaining)

- 1 complimentary Concrete Symposium registration
- Draped table and two chairs to display product literature and company logoed items
- Company logo and acknowledgement of sponsorship displayed in PowerPoint during symposium and in symposium marketing materials

BREAK SPONSOR - \$750 (1 Remaining)

- 1 complimentary Concrete Symposium registration
- Company logo and acknowledgement of sponsorship displayed in PowerPoint during symposium, in symposium marketing materials, and on ACI Houston website
- Company logo and acknowledgement of sponsorship displayed on table tents and signage at symposium

PREMIUM SPONSOR - \$2,000

LUNCH SPONSOR - \$500

LANYARD SPONSOR - \$500

PEN SPONSOR - \$500

BREAKFAST SPONSOR - \$750

DEADLINE TO SPONSOR: JULY 31, 2026

SOLD OUT

SCHEDULE

- 7:00 AM** Registration/Breakfast/Vendor Networking
- 7:50 AM** Welcome to the Program
- 8:00 AM** **Concrete Pavements: We Are Houston**
Presented By: Elizabeth (Lisa) Lukefahr, P.E. - Texas Concrete Pavement Association
- 9:00 AM** **Strengthening and Repair of Prestressed Concrete Beams**
Presented By: Hamidreza Tahsiri, Ph.D., P.E. - Walker Consultants
& Jonathan Warshaw, P.E. - Walker Consultants
- 10:00 AM** Break/Vendor Networking
- 10:30 AM** **A Real Life Anti-Trust Concrete Story**
Presented By: Christopher Tull, P.E. - CRT Concrete Consulting, LLC
- 11:30 AM** Lunch/Vendor Networking
- 12:30 PM** **On Our Minds: Caring for our Mental Health**
Presented By: Michael Schneider - Michael Schneider Consulting, LLC
- 1:30 PM** **Who Is Responsible? Clarifying Accountability in Concrete Construction**
Presented By: Joseph Klein, P.E. - Pivot Engineers
- 2:30 PM** Break/Vendor Networking
- 3:00 PM** **Designing, Detailing, and Constructing Concrete Floors on Ground**
Presented By: Bryan Birdwell, FACI - Structural Services, Inc.
& David Buzzelli, FACI - Texas A&M Concrete

PRESENTATIONS

Concrete Pavements: We Are Houston

Presented By: Elizabeth (Lisa) Lukefahr, P.E. - Texas Concrete Pavement Association



Everyone who drives in the Houston area knows how prevalent concrete pavements are on area highways and city streets. But Houston is not just a user of concrete pavements; Houston is a leader and innovator in various aspects of concrete and concrete pavement design and construction.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lisa Lukefahr, P.E., began her career with TxDOT in 1990 and retired after 26+ years after having worked in the Research Section, the Pavements Section, the Bituminous and Concrete Sections, the Project Management Office and ending her TxDOT career in the Austin District. Ms. Lukefahr has been the Executive Director of the Texas Concrete Pavement Association since May of 2016, and hopes to support and promote the use of quality concrete pavements in Texas for years to come.

Strengthening and Repair of Prestressed Concrete Beams

Presented By: Hamidreza Tahsiri, Ph.D., P.E. and Jonathan Warshaw, P.E. - Walker Consultants

This presentation begins with an introduction to the key design criteria and philosophy behind prestressed concrete beams. It will then review various common sources and degrees of structural damage that can occur in prestressed beams found in highway bridges and parking structures. We will examine several strengthening and repair techniques that are commonly used in the industry, including patching, preload, external post-tensioning, section enlargement, steel jacketing, strand splicing, and fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) techniques. Each repair methodology will be explained in detail, along with its advantages and limitations. Finally, we will present several case studies that showcase past local project experiences related to the repair of damaged prestressed concrete beams, particularly those affected by vehicular impact and fire.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Dr. Hamidreza Tahsiri, P.E., is a Consultant III at Walker Consultant, where he specializes in forensics, restoration, and building envelope practices. With over eight years of experience in structural engineering, he has a diverse background that includes damage assessment, cause and origin analysis, expert witness support, insurance claim resolution, and the retrofit/restoration of buildings, bridges, and parking garages. In addition to his consulting work, he has five years of academic experience that includes teaching and research in structural rehabilitation, concrete strengthening, and Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymers (CFRP) design guidelines and specifications development. He is currently a voting member of the ACI Committee 440-Subcommittee I, which focuses on FRP Prestressed Concrete.



Jonathan Warshaw, P.E., is Director of Forensics, Restoration, and Building Envelope at Walker Consultants. He has over 14 years of experience in structural engineering specializing in the inspection and evaluation of existing structures. Mr. Warshaw conducts condition assessments for materials like steel, concrete, wood, and masonry, and is skilled in structural analysis and repair design. He has handled failure investigations for concrete and steel structures and assessments related to building glass systems and is knowledgeable in nondestructive testing techniques. He has prepared detailed construction documents and repair specifications. Before joining Walker Consultants, Mr. Warshaw worked as a restoration specialist in Houston and as a structural engineer in Tyrone, Georgia. His experience includes designing load-resisting systems for new constructions and providing construction observation services, positioning him to effectively manage complex projects.

A Real Life Anti-Trust Concrete Story

Presented By: Christopher R. Tull, P.E - CRT Concrete Consulting, LLC



This presentation will provide a personal account of antitrust events that took place 20 years ago. The consequences of what occurred were significant. Businesses penalized, families broken, reputations damaged. Two decades have past, but the lessons remain.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Christopher R. Tull, P.E., is the founder of CRT Concrete Consulting, LLC and brings more than 30 years of experience in the materials, engineering, and construction aspects of concrete. His diverse background includes leadership roles with a major concrete contractor, construction management firm, the Indiana

Ready Mixed Concrete Association, and a large ready-mix concrete producer, where he served as Vice President of Production and Quality. Since founding CRT Concrete Consulting in 2007, Mr. Tull has specialized in slab-on-ground design, low-shrinkage concrete mixtures, polished concrete flooring systems, pavement optimization, and troubleshooting complex concrete performance issues. He is a nationally recognized speaker and educator who has presented throughout the United States and internationally, helping engineers, contractors, and producers implement state-of-the-art concrete technologies and best practices. Mr. Tull is an active member of several American Concrete Institute committees including ACI 302 Construction of Concrete Floors, and ACI 360 Construction and Design of Slabs. He is also the past chair of ACI 330 Concrete Parking and Site Paving. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cornell University and is widely respected for his practical, relationship-based approach to solving concrete construction challenges.

On Our Minds: Caring for our Mental Health

Presented By: Michael Schneider - Michael Schneider Consulting, LLC



Construction and mining have the highest suicide rate of any industry. Five times more construction workers die annually from suicide (5,000) than die annually from construction accidents (1,000). How well is mental health and suicide prevention integrated into your organization's Safety, Health & Wellness programs and practices? The stigma attached to seeking mental help keeps us from getting the education and support that would help us feel better. Learn contributing factors, warning signs, and access to mental health resources. This presentation is interactive and addresses the mental wellbeing of our co-workers.

Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will become more aware of the mental health crisis in the construction industry
- Attendees will learn the resources that are available to help mitigate this crisis
- Learn the reasons mental health issues and suicide are such an issue in the construction industry
- Attendees will have a chance to evaluate their own organization's approach to mental health issues

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Michael Schneider grew up on the West side of Cincinnati, and then went on to obtain a BS in personnel management from Miami University of Ohio and a BS in construction management from the University of Cincinnati. He began his 45-year career at Baker Concrete as a Project Manager in 1978 and recently retired as Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer. Mr. Schneider is a past President of the American Concrete Institute (2016-2017) and the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC). He is the current chair of the ACI Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors for PRO: An ACI Center of Excellence for Advancing Productivity. He resides in Albuquerque New Mexico and is President of Michael Schneider Consulting, LLC.

Who Is Responsible? Clarifying Accountability in Concrete Construction

Presented By: Joseph Klein, P.E. - Pivot Engineers



"Who is responsible?" is a common and consequential question in the concrete industry, particularly when projects encounter challenges such as cracking, performance deficiencies, or noncompliance with specifications. Disputes over responsibility can lead to costly delays, repairs, or removals, underscoring the importance of clearly defined roles for all parties involved. This presentation discusses the recently revised ACI 132-24: Guide for Responsibility in Concrete Construction, developed by ACI Committee 132. This document provides practical guidance on defining and communicating responsibilities among owners, licensed design professionals, general contractors, construction managers, concrete contractors, producers, and testing agencies. By clarifying responsibilities in new construction, this ACI guide document aims to reduce disputes, improve quality control, and promote accountability across the project team.

Learning Objectives:

- Summarize ACI 132-24 in guiding responsibility allocation for concrete construction
- Identify the typical roles and responsibilities of project team members, including designers, contractors, producers, and testing agencies
- Evaluate how early role clarification can mitigate risk, improve project coordination, and reduce costly disputes in concrete construction projects
- Apply key principles from the document to real-world disputes

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Joseph Klein, P.E., is a Senior Engineer at Pivot Engineers in Austin, Texas. He specializes in evaluation and repair of reinforced concrete structures and construction litigation support. Throughout his career, he has worked on a wide variety of structures, including high-rise buildings, bridges, tunnels, parking garages, wastewater treatment plants, pavements, and retaining walls. Mr. Klein is an active ACI member and the current secretary of ACI 132 Responsibility in Concrete Construction. He is also the current secretary of ACI 348 Structural Reliability & Safety, and a voting member of ACI 437 Strength Evaluation of Existing Concrete Structures, ACI 437S Load Testing of Concrete Structures Code, and ACI 444 Structural Health Monitoring.

Designing, Detailing, and Constructing Concrete Floors on Ground

**Presented By: Bryan Birdwell, FACI - Structural Services, Inc.
and David Buzzelli, FACI - Texas A&M Concrete**

In this presentation, participants will learn how to select the most appropriate design approach for meeting an owner's expectations and how to communicate project details clearly and effectively. The session will also compare the theory behind slab performance with real-world behavior, helping attendees recognize practical challenges that arise in the field. Finally, participants will explore proven, award-winning techniques for planning, forming, placing, finishing, and testing high-quality concrete floors.

Learning Objectives:

- Determine the right design approach to meet the Owner's expectations
- Demonstrate how to present details to the Owner to meet the expectations
- Analyze the theory of how these slabs are supposed to work versus what happens in the real world
- Implement award-winning techniques to properly plan, form, place, finish, and test high-quality floors

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Bryan M. Birdwell, FACI is the President and Senior Floor & Paving Consultant at Structural Services Inc. He is well-known in the concrete industry for his expertise in the installation, techniques and procedures of super flat, high tolerance, and decorative floors as well as the typical concrete floor and parking lot installations. He has developed methods and taught techniques of concrete finishing throughout the United States and other locations. He has shown finishers the techniques and skills they need to construct the flattest most level concrete floors meeting and exceeding placement specifications. Mr. Birdwell's floor construction and finishing techniques have been recognized continually by numerous awards. He has continued to share his expertise. Mr. Birdwell has been an instructor at the World of Concrete seminars and SSI's Concrete College for floor construction as well as written many articles for various concrete publications.

He is a member of ACI Committees 640 Craftsman Certification, 117 Tolerances, 302 Construction of Concrete Floors, 330 Concrete Parking Lots and Site Paving, 360 Designs of Slabs-on-Ground, and 522 Pervious Concrete. He is also an examiner for ACI's Specialty Commercial/Industrial Concrete Flatwork Finisher/Technician Certification Program. Additionally, he has performed forensics investigations and provided innovative remediation solutions for slab surface issues. Mr. Birdwell was previously an owner of a concrete construction company for many years that had a wide range of projects including commercial and industrial slabs-on-grade, suspended slabs, parking lots and road pavements.



David W. Buzzelli, FACI has served as Vice President and Partner of Texas A&M Concrete, LLC in Houston, Texas since 2012. He began his career in concrete construction in 1989, volunteering on community church projects while still in high school. He later joined a Houston-based contractor as a concrete finisher and advanced through key roles including Field Superintendent, Project Manager, and Operations Manager before assuming his current leadership position. An active member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) since 2007, Mr. Buzzelli has demonstrated strong leadership within the organization. He joined the ACI Houston Chapter Board in 2011 and served as Chapter President in 2014. He currently chairs ACI Committee C640 Craftsman Certification and previously served as its Secretary.

He is also a voting member of several ACI Committees, including C650 Tilt Up Constructor Certification, 302 Construction of Concrete Floors, 360 Design of Slabs on Ground, 117 Tolerances, and 330 Concrete Parking Lots and Site Paving. Mr. Buzzelli serves as Subcommittee Chair for 117-OK (Tilt-Wall Section) and is an associate member of ACI 551 Tilt Up Concrete Construction. Additionally, he is an ACI Flatwork Finisher Examiner, and was awarded the recognition of Fellow of ACI in 2024. He is passionate about education and industry advancement, regularly conducting training seminars for the ACI Flatwork Finisher certification, engaging with local ACI student chapters, and presenting at ACI Houston symposiums.

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