Gray, drab, dull, boring. These are the words that come to mind when most people think about concrete. What these people don’t realize however is that concrete plays a vital role in our daily lives and that of any functioning society. With its many uses, durability, and great weather resistance, concrete is anything but boring!

Have you ever stopped to think about how much we use concrete? According to the World Business Council, “Concrete is in fact the most used man-made material in the world with nearly three tons used annually for every man, woman, and child.” Concrete is most frequently used to build bridges, buildings, dams, tunnels, sewers, runways, and roads. Concrete also has great versatility in the home. It can replace average building products in driveways, patios, fireplaces, countertops, showers, sinks, pools and more. What’s even better is that it’s not the same smooth gray we all associate with concrete. Decorative concrete can be painted, dyed, stamped, polished and treated to become a beautiful and unique addition to any home.

Concrete is also extremely durable. It isn’t weakened by moisture, mold, or pests and even gains strength over time. Buildings that are built using concrete are more likely to withstand time and be available for future generations of use. Many buildings from hundreds of years ago are still in use today because of their strong concrete structures. A great example of this is the Roman Colosseum. The Colosseum is around 1,942 years old and is still standing today.

Additionally, concrete has great weather resistance. It is virtually fireproof and does not emit any toxic fumes when affected by fire, unlike many other substances. Also, concrete is waterproof so it can be used for construction in areas with high flood risks. Similarly, concrete resists damage from hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. In the article “Disaster Resistance” by the Portland Cement Association, it was noted that, “…in 1967, a series of deadly tornados hit northern Illinois…Two pre-stressed concrete structures, a grocery store and a high school, were in the direct path of two tornados that struck almost simultaneously. Repairs to the structural system of the grocery store were less than $200. In the high school, structural damage was also limited.”

Concrete is clearly the safest option for construction in any disaster-prone area.

Gray, drab, dull, boring. Concrete is obviously none of the above. Its wide variety of uses allow us to build a functioning and beautiful society, its durability gives us the possibility to build a world that can live on through the generations, and its weather resistance helps to protect our people from the disasters that threaten them. David Allen Coe once said, “It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it’s the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.” Concrete, however, allows us to make both beautiful and strong structures that will stand as our legacy for years to come.
State Association of the Year Award

California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA)

NRMCA is pleased to announce the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA) as the winner of the 2014 State Association of the Year. This is the 11th annual award, and the first time CalCIMA has received this recognition. Some highlights from CalCIMA’s nomination include:

- Creation of its “Distance Matters” advocacy tool in support of the idea that local supplies of materials provide the greatest environmental benefit for the state. A website, pamphlet, and fact sheet explain how greenhouse gases are reduced with local material supplies. Through information on its website, letters to state agencies and legislators, and advocacy meetings with state officials, CalCIMA informs policy makers about the many uses and benefits of concrete to meet the state’s infrastructure needs.

- A wide variety of educational offerings included 7 training sessions to inform members about the state’s new industrial storm water permit which has significant impacts for ready mix plants, panel presentation on Caltrans’ new specification for returned plastic concrete, panel presentation on Caltrans’ new specification for quality assurance for structural concrete and training sessions on concrete mixer trucks, including brakes, tires, enforcement by the California Highway Patrol, California’s Biennial Inspection of Terminal (BIT) program, the On-road Diesel Rule, and diesel particulate Filters.

- CalCIMA initiated development of a specification with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Measurement Standards to allow use of returned plastic concrete. A group of CalCIMA members worked for 18 months with the agencies. NRMCA was included in the work group. The final product will include an environmental benefits document, specification, and protocol certification. This is expected to be the first of its kind in the country. The specification is expected in early 2015.

- In 2014, CalCIMA sponsored legislation (AB 2355-Levine) to require local governments to adopt standards for recycling of materials at least equal to state standards. This will help producers who encounter local governments that don’t want to use recycled aggregate or other materials in concrete. The legislation was signed into law.

- CalCIMA has developed compliance documents to assist ready mix plants respond to potential regulations for process water. This includes studies on pond water, concrete-lined ponds, and engineering designs for ponds. The industry continues to finalize a best management practices (BMP) manual that includes 20 BMPs. The documents assist producers with regulators.

- In 2014, CalCIMA assisted industry in obtaining a ruling on a new tax credit that allows ready mix producers to claim a credit for the purchase of mixer drums.
Richard D. Gaynor Award
For Excellence in Research, Engineering and Standards

Dr. Nicholas J. Carino

Dr. Nicholas J. Carino is a concrete technology consultant based in Cleveland and an affiliated consultant with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Dr. Carino graduated with a BS, MS and PhD from Cornell University. He was an assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin from 1974 to 1979. He retired from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 2004, where he held the position of research structural engineer since 1979. He is an active participant in standards organizations and a strong proponent of performance-based requirements for concrete.

Dr. Carino is a world-renowned expert on non-destructive testing of concrete, primarily on the maturity method and other methods to evaluate the in-place strength of concrete and the impact-echo for detection of flaws. Dr. Carino was involved in various NIST structural investigations, including a safety assessment of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, determining the causes of failures and progressive collapse in buildings and transportation structures, and damage assessments following the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes. He was a member of the NIST team that investigated the collapse of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and was the principal author of the team’s report on fire-resistive materials. He received several awards and recognitions from NIST for his contributions during his 25-year career.

He has been a leader in standards development by various technical committees in ACI, ASTM and other groups. At ACI, he is a four-time recipient of the Wason Medal for Materials Research, and has received the following awards for his technical contributions to the industry: Delmar L. Bloem Award, Robert E. Philleo Award, Arthur R. Anderson Award and the ACI Construction Award. At ASTM, he has received the Award of Merit, Robert J. Painter Memorial Award, Frank E. Richart Award, Walter C. Voss Award, and the Katharine and Bryant Mather Award. Dr. Carino is an Honorary Member of ACI, a Fellow of ASTM and a Life Member of ASCE.

Dr. Carino has written many research papers and is a principal author of the Handbook on Nondestructive Testing of Concrete. Dr. Carino worked closely with Dick Gaynor to establish appropriate requirements for specifying and testing high-strength concrete. He was the lead author for ACI Innovation Task Group 8, which published a report on performance specifications. Nick continues to be an active member of several ACI and ASTM committees, including ACI 318 on building code requirements and ACI 301 on specifications for structural concrete. His attention to detail is legendary and has resulted in significant improvements to new and existing standards that are vital to the ready mixed concrete industry.

While Dr. Carino still remains professionally active in retirement as a consultant and educator, his hobbies include rugby (now only as a retired observer of the game), biking and relaxing at his cabin on Lake Huron in Michigan.

William B. Allen Award
For Outstanding Leadership and Commitment to High Standards in Business Acumen

Bill Geiger

Geiger Ready-Mix

Like the award’s namesake, Bill Geiger began to work in the family business at a very young age—working as the yard boy around the time he was 12 years old. After a tour in Vietnam and being honorably discharged as an Army 1st Lieutenant, Bill’s father turned the company over to him in 1968 at the age of 25. Over the course of the last 47 years, Bill has led the company in growth from one plant with a fleet of 10 trucks to its current footprint of 7 plants at 5 locations and a fleet of 120 ready mix trucks that serve the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area.

Bill’s career-long intention has been to “build this company to last” by practicing the “Geiger Way,” which defines the company’s purpose as “adding value to the lives of our customers, employees and suppliers in a positive and professional manner.” As our industry consolidated during the 10-15 years before the recession, Bill declined countless offers to sell the company. Crippled by the recession (sales and production dropped by 50%), Bill guided the company through this lean period without a personnel reduction in force (the company shrank through attrition and the timely sale of fleet assets). The company has grown aggressively out of the recession during the past three years and is positioning itself to be led by the family’s third generation “as a ready mix supplier, we have been in business for 66 years; as a building material supplier, we have been in business for 123 years.”
Promoter of the Year Award

Theron Tobolski
Prairie Materials

Over the past decade, Theron Tobolski of Prairie Materials has shown himself to be one of the premier champions of concrete in the country. He joined Prairie in 1997 initially working in quality control but within a few years was having a positive impact on the ready mixed market because of his focus on approaching decision makers such as architects, engineers and municipal officials rather than just contractors.

One of Theron’s first major accomplishments was to localize the mix design for pervious concrete for the Chicago’s “Green Alley” program in 2006. This involved working directly with the consultant representing the Chicago DOT, doing test placement samples, and finally having the approved mix become the “CDOT 63 Specification” used for the alley pilot program.

Perhaps Theron’s most notable promotion achievement has been the successful introduction of Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC). Since 2009, he has been instrumental in growing the RCC market in the Chicago area 20-fold to roughly 40,000 CY last year. Theron personally worked on at least 14 projects during that time, with many clients showing their confidence by becoming repeat customers. RCC was thought by many to be an unsuitable product for a northern climate, but in large measure because of his efforts that misconception has been significantly dispelled in the Midwest.

Theron also helped further expand the potential for this market by working with concrete industry suppliers on cutting edge finishing applications for RCC that results in a conventional pavement appearance rather than the more open, coarse, traditional appearance of RCC.

A number of Theron’s successful high-profile project achievements have been covered in a half dozen prominent public works and concrete industry magazines in recent years, including several cover stories. Thereon has also been a featured speaker for numerous prominent organizations, including American Concrete Institute, American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers and NRMCA.

Other notable achievements in which Theron played a major role included developing 24,000 PSI concrete as part of the research for the Trump Tower Project in Chicago and shipping ready mix concrete on a barge into Lake Michigan that was successfully placed seven hours after leaving the plant.

Theron is quick to engage industry partners in his promotion efforts, including both national and state concrete associations. Randy Riley, P.E., executive director of the Illinois Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association, commented that “Theron gets more concrete applications successfully launched than anyone I know. In the state of Illinois I wish I had 50 more like him to work with.”

Theron has recently taken on a new set of challenges at Prairie in a shift of his role to land management in their aggregates division.

NRMCA’s Promotion Committee is pleased to name him Promoter of the Year for 2015 in fitting recognition of the many years and lasting contributions he has made to the ready mixed concrete industry.
Jereme Montgomery
Nebraska Concrete and Aggregates Association

The NRMCA Promotion Committee is pleased to award the 2015 State Affiliate Promoter of the Year Award to Jereme Montgomery, executive director of the Nebraska Concrete and Aggregates Association (NC&AA). As an outstanding concrete promoter within his state and an excellent collaborator with other concrete organizations, he is a great example of concrete promotion leadership in action.

Jereme has a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management from the University of Nebraska. He started his concrete career working for the Nebraska Department of Roads in the Material & Testing Laboratory. His initial expertise in concrete was managing and constructing quality concrete flatwork for a design-build firm. He was named executive director for the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association in 2006.

Jeremy’s focus on promotion is seen in his initiative to survey Nebraska’s 10 largest counties every year to measure concrete market share for new construction. His passion and high energy level in promoting concrete is demonstrated by the results. Since 2007, Nebraska’s concrete market share has increased every year and has recorded an astounding 96% in 2012 and 2013.

Jereme has also emerged as one of the nation’s leading pervious concrete experts, is very active on NRMCA’s Pervious Concrete Promotion Subcommittee, and was instrumental in developing the recent NRMCA Pervious Concrete Pavement Maintenance and Operations Guide. He has also had several articles published on pervious concrete, including “Hitting the Mark” in Concrete International magazine, which he co-authored with Dr. John Kevern of the University of Missouri.

Jereme has always understood the importance of promoting concrete pavement. In 2009, he was one of the first to host NRMCA’s “Selling Concrete Parking Lots” program for his members (the predecessor to the current “Concrete Parking Lots Boot Camp” training program). He is also a strong proponent of NRMCA’s Concrete Pavement Analyst software.

Jereme has a strong affinity for “high-tech” and utilizes the latest information technology to support and advance concrete promotion. Most recently he has created an online visual database of concrete parking lots to support and encourage Nebraska specifiers.

Though he’s known as a “techie,” Jereme is not one to abandon tried and true methods. For example, under his leadership, NC&AA has continued to offer the Concrete 101 program to local schools with great success, and Jereme is also a strong advocate for “Concrete Cares,” the national initiative to expand awareness of the need for cancer research and fundraising.

It is through Jereme’s leadership, high-energy passion for concrete and affinity for working with partners that has enabled NC&AA to become a promotion model for state ready mixed concrete associations. As such, Jereme Montgomery is an ideal recipient for NRMCA’s 2015 State Affiliate Promoter of the Year Award.

Concrete Cares Award

The Manufacturers, Products & Services (MPS) Division of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) is pleased to announce that Kearney Concrete Co. of Kearney, NE and Central Concrete Supply Company, Inc., a U.S. Concrete company of San Jose, CA, have been named the recipients of the 2015 Concrete Cares Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to community service. Kearney Concrete is being honored in the under 250,000 cyd category, while Central Concrete Supply is being honored in the over 250,000 cyd category.

Kearney Concrete, is being honored for its support of cancer-related organizations, which ultimately lead to the creation the non-profit, state-wide organization, Concrete Cares of Nebraska. In September 2014, Concrete Cares of Nebraska held its second annual event offering family oriented activities, live music, food and a car show, all sponsored by local businesses. To date, Concrete Cares of Nebraska has raised nearly $10,000 to help cancer patients and their families in Nebraska. In submitting the nomination, Jereme Montgomery, executive director of the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association, said, “it is amazing what a huge difference a small ‘Ma and Pa’ operation can and has made in Nebraska.”
Concrete Cares Award cont’d

Central Concrete Supply Co. is being honored for its innovative community outreach program called “Central Cares.” The program encourages employees to nominate charitable organizations that they are personally committed to for inclusion in the company’s annual giving program. Team members making nominations have to demonstrate a vested interest in the charity and agree to take a leadership role in developing and managing the fund raising program. In 2014, 21 charitable organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area received support from Central Concrete Supply and its employees, including Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, local food banks, local veterans organizations and area boys and girls clubs just to name a few.

With ready mixed concrete plants in almost every community in America, NRMCA member companies are making a real difference in the communities they serve. The Concrete Cares Award recognizes these efforts and shines a national spotlight on the positive impact ready mixed concrete companies have in hometowns across the nation. A donation in the name of Kearney Concrete will be made to Concrete Cares of Nebraska. A donation will also be made in honor of Central Concrete Supply. All ready mixed concrete producers that are members of NRMCA are eligible for nomination.

Chairman’s Award

In appreciation for extraordinary dedication to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association the chairman of the board annually selects an individual who has done exceptional work for our industry.

Joseph E. Carpenter Award

Greg Vickers
Monumental Concrete Co.

Mr. Vickers was named the award recipient for his long-time commitment to the OES Committee and the ready mixed concrete industry. Greg has worked more than 35 years in concrete-related industries, starting with several years of service at Miller & Long Co., the Washington, DC, area’s largest concrete contractor. He later served as quality control manager for NRMCA member company Tarmac America in Virginia (now doing business as Titan America) and in equipment sales roles for Bering Truck Corp., Schwing America, Inc. and Blasters Ready Jet, Inc. Greg has also worked for Continental Mixers/Navistar where he was the company representative to the Truck Mixer Manufacturers Bureau (TMMB). He is currently the general manager of Monumental Concrete in Washington, DC.

Greg was employed by NRMCA and led the Operations, Environmental and Safety Division at NRMCA headquarters for three years during the late 1990s. He is credited with many successful projects during those years, including the launch of the annual Fleet Benchmarking Survey and the revised Annual Safety Contest. He returned eight years later under the OES department, heading operational efforts, including taking the lead staff role for the National Mixer Driver Championship and was the primary developer of the NRMCA Fleet Managers Course. Mr. Vickers has done extraordinary work on a national level. He is one of the primary developers of NRMCA’s National Mixer Driver Championship. Greg has been an active planner, participant and overseer of every championship. Greg has on numerous occasions volunteered his time as a speaker at various NRMCA training courses, including NRMCA’s Short Course, Plant Manager Course, Dispatcher Course, Fleet Manager Course and Plant Manager Course.

Greg lives in Washington, DC and has been married to his wife Gillian for 30 years. He has two grown children and 4 grandsons.
## 2015 Driver of the Year Award

### Edward Rieper

**Eastern Concrete Materials, Inc., a U.S. Concrete Company**

Mr. Rieper, whose home plant is located in Bogota, NJ, was honored for his career achievements, outstanding safety record, professionalism, driving competency and customer service skills. He has worked for Eastern Concrete Materials for more than 29 years, and is a proud member of Teamsters Local 560. “I am very proud of Eddie’s accomplishments,” said Teamsters Local 560 President Tony Valdner. “It is a testament to the professionalism at Eastern Concrete and their drivers as a whole.” Mr. Rieper drives the “Army” mixer truck to honor the nearby West Point Military Academy.

“Eddie is a team leader, professional fireman and a great American,” wrote Eastern’s Vice President of Operations, Louis Petrillo when nominating Rieper for the Driver of the Year Award. “His, I can, I will attitude and his resolve to do what’s right represents the best of what Eastern Concrete Materials, Inc. has to offer.”

Along with the winner, a runner-up was also selected by the judges. He is 27 year veteran mixer driver Henry “Pete” Scarborough of Concrete Supply Co., Charlotte, NC. Operations’ Manager Tony Hunt wrote, “Pete has a great safety record and while remaining accident free, has won multiple company clean truck awards and has 25 high productivity awards… that needs to be considered as the “triple crown” for delivery drivers.” Contractor Phillip Tarelton wrote “Scarborough can put a concrete truck where most people can’t even put a bicycle.”