



## 2025 Concrete Advancement Foundation Wrap-Up

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the dedication and generosity of our donors, partners, and supporters. Your commitment has propelled our mission forward by funding essential research, empowering education, and workforce development, and advancing the innovative solutions that will shape the future of our industry. From expanding opportunities for students and early-career professionals to supporting groundbreaking studies that strengthen resilience, sustainability, and community impact, your support has made a measurable difference. Every contribution, every partnership, and every shared belief in our mission has helped us build momentum and drive progress across the industry in meaningful and lasting ways.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season, and we look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

## CAF Releases



A newly completed, co-funded study has confirmed that Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) wall assemblies successfully meet the NFPA 285 fire safety standard. Conducted in partnership with NRMCA and the Insulating Concrete Forms

Manufacturers Association, the testing demonstrated that both brick veneer and aluminum composite clad ICF systems met the rigorous criteria. Engineers have since expanded the guidance to include additional ICF wall configurations, supporting wider use of ICFs in larger and taller buildings and advancing safer, more resilient, and energy-efficient construction. View the full paper [here](#).

Conducted by researchers at the University of Oklahoma's Haskell and Irene Lemon Construction Science Division and funded by CAF, a new report offers a near side-by-side comparison of five homes built with insulated concrete forms (ICF) and traditional wood framing. The study examined both construction costs and energy performance, providing valuable insights into how ICF and wood-frame systems differ in real-world conditions. Researchers highlighted factors such as labor shortages, the need for more resilient housing in regions like Tornado Alley, and opportunities for long-term energy savings. View the full report [here](#).



Developed by a consortium of industry organizations with partial Concrete Advancement Foundation funding, the newly updated Life-365 concrete service life and life-cycle cost model is now available as a free, easy-to-access web app at [www.life-365.org](http://www.life-365.org). The latest version offers a seamless experience across all devices while preserving the full functionality of the original software, giving engineers and designers a robust methodology for evaluating service life, comparing corrosion mitigation strategies, and generating exportable reports and data for project submittals. This widely used tool continues to support informed, long-term decision making for concrete structures around the world.



## MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub



The MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSHub) advanced key research and industry engagement initiatives throughout 2025. Early-year work demonstrated that reducing concrete overdesign and improving strength-testing practices can significantly lower embodied carbon while maintaining structural performance. National outreach activities further emphasized the role of resilient construction in reducing long-term climate and hazard-related costs in the wake of the LA fires in January. The Resilience Roundtable in April brought together leaders from construction, insurance, lending, standards and first responder organizations, and public agencies to examine strategies for improving building performance and community resilience. During the Spring Advisory Meeting, industry partners reviewed progress on research related to alternative fuels, carbon capture pipeline network feasibility, advanced carbon-uptake measurement methods, pavement and materials modeling and design tools, and urban flood-risk analysis, among others.

Additional research milestones included the application of AI and machine learning to identify low-carbon cement alternatives, the development of updated tools for incorporating carbon uptake and hazard-informed life cycle assessment, and new findings showing that optimized payloads for ready-

mixed concrete trucks can reduce emissions and operating costs without detrimental pavement impacts.

The MIT CSHub also advanced work on multifunctional “battery” concrete, demonstrating energy-storing structural elements and expanding international collaboration on next-generation concrete technologies. The Fall Advisory Meeting focused on policy pathways, implementation-focused technology pilots, streamlined LCA tools, and expanded industry partnerships.

For more information on these and other initiatives, visit the MIT CSHub [website](#).

## Skate4Concrete Program

The Skate4Concrete program continues to expand nationwide, introducing high school students to concrete concepts through hands-on learning and skatepark design. To date, it has reached over 950 students across 17 states. View our video, [Skate4Concrete: Empowering the Next Generation of Concrete Professionals](#), to learn how your state can get involved.



## Skate4Concrete

The program also connects to workforce development through the [CIM student internship](#), which offers eligible students the chance to work with New Line Skateparks or Grindline Skateparks on an active project, as well as tour ready mixed concrete facilities and other industry-related venues.

The [Mini Skatepark Competition](#) will take place on January 20, 2026, at World of Concrete, bringing together students from across the country to demonstrate their creativity, craftsmanship, and understanding of concrete through custom-built scaled skatepark features. We invite you to explore the sponsorship opportunities available [here](#). Every level of support helps strengthen industry education and expand student access to this program. The competition will bring greater industry visibility to both Skate4Concrete and CIM, both of which are Foundation-supported programs.

For more information, visit the Skate4Concrete [website](#).

## Concrete Industry Management



CAF is proud to support the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program, which continues to grow and thrive at five universities nationwide. With more than 1,700 graduates, over 660 currently enrolled students, and more than 50 MBA graduates, CIM is building a strong pipeline of future leaders for the concrete industry. The Foundation provided the initial seed funding to launch the first CIM program at Middle Tennessee State University and remains actively involved through participation on the CIM National Steering Committee and support of the annual CIM Auction. Learn more about the [CIM program](#) and ways to get involved. Opportunities to donate or bid on items for the 2026 CIM Auction will be available through the [CIM Auction page](#). The Live Auction will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific in Room N-262 of the Las Vegas Convention Center during World of Concrete, with online bidding for the Silent Auction opening in mid-January.

## Walk for Wellness

Our annual Walk for Wellness, held at NRMCA's ConcreteWorks in Orlando, Florida, brought together 134 registered walkers in support of the Concrete Advancement Foundation's mission. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, participants, and donors, the event raised over \$18,000 to fuel our research, education, and workforce development initiatives. We are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make this year's walk such a meaningful opportunity to come together in support of our mission. We also thank Master Builders Solutions for once again holding their own Walk for Sustainability in support of the Foundation, and Mack and Con-Tech Manufacturing for donating 25% of the proceeds of a mixer truck sale to CAF again in 2025. We deeply appreciate your support, as well as the support of all our generous direct donors.



## Board of Trustees Evaluates Strategic Plan Update



The Concrete Advancement Foundation's Board of Trustees recently met to review proposed updates to the organization's strategic plan. The discussion focused on strengthening the governance and decision-making structures that support the Foundation's mission and long-term growth.

While the overall vision remains consistent, the Trustees will be evaluating refinements to improve alignment across programs, streamline funding review processes, and reinforce support for high-impact initiatives.

A final vote on the updated strategic plan and associated bylaws revisions will take place in January 2026. Additional details will be shared following the Board's decision.

Stay tuned for more updates as the Foundation moves into the next phase of its strategic direction.

## Supporting the Foundation

As we wrap up the year, we invite you to consider supporting the Foundation with an end-of-year, tax-deductible contribution. Whether you choose to donate [online](#), submit a [pledge](#) that is fully recognized at the time it's made, or as a [gift](#) in honor of someone special, every gift strengthens our ability to advance meaningful work across the industry. Thank you for your generosity, your partnership, and your continued belief in our mission. We are truly grateful for your support. Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season.

