

## AS THE DRUM TURNS...



2025 WOC group - Christine, Nate, Ty, Pete, Blake, Kate, Wyatt, Robo, Nate and Jace

### ***Notes from the Director***

#### ***Tim Hostettler, S.D.S.U. CIM Program Director***

The Spring semester has come to an end, with Finals behind us and the students off to fulfill their summer plans. Many have internships or other summer jobs in the industry, which is great experience and also generally lucrative. We have seven for-credit internships taking place this summer, so many thanks to our Patrons who have made the commitment to facilitate this vitally important phase of the CIM experience. Summer internships are where all the classroom learning finally starts to make sense and come together—the vast majority of our students have told me that their “light bulb” moment occurs during the summer internship experience.

**If your company has the willingness and ability to take on summer interns in the future, please forward the relevant information to me and I will circulate it around to the students.**

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Pete Benson at the controls of Buffalo Ridge’s Brookings ready-mix plant during his summer 2024 internship.

Tony, Ty, and Jaivyn on the job for Knife River during the summer 2024 season.



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**By the Numbers**

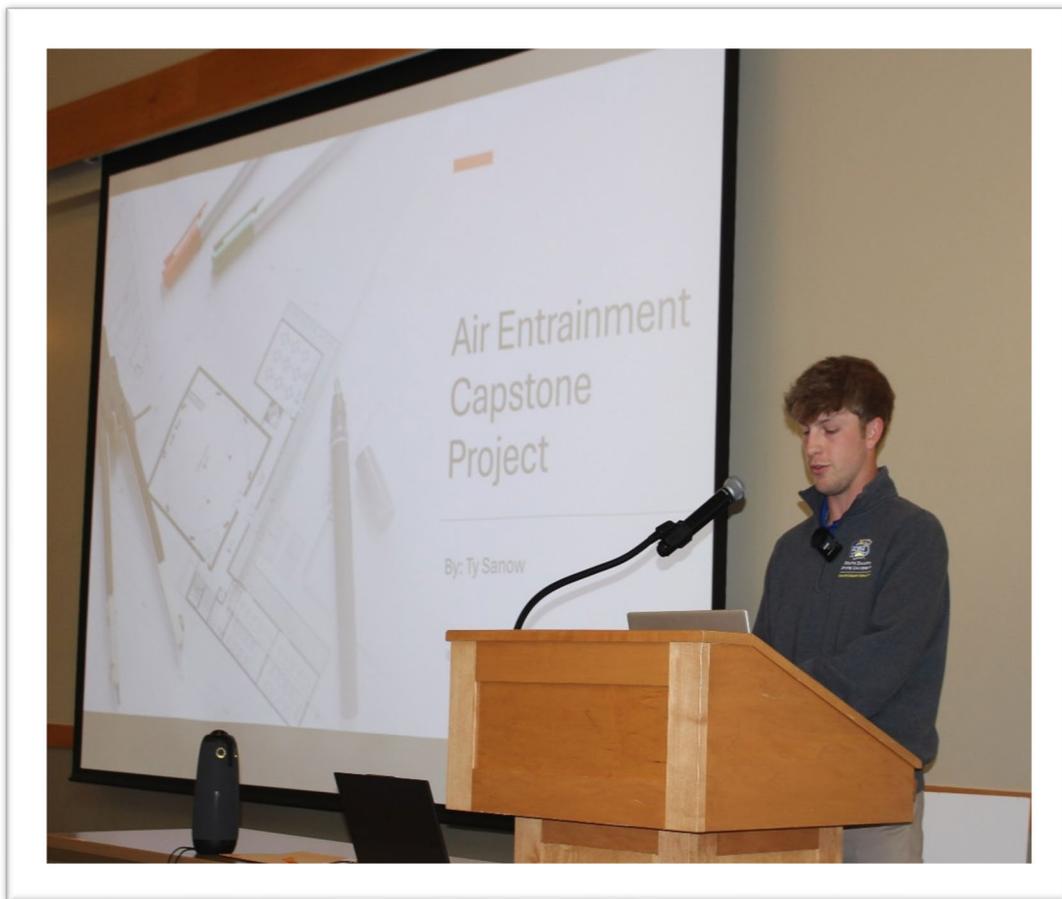
We are currently at 50 students, with one graduating this month and four graduating in December, bringing the Class of 2025 to five total. If the past trends continue, we should be in the 60-65 range for Fall 25. We anticipate six graduates for the calendar year 2026, with December graduations remaining prevalent. Many students come to the University with college credits earned in high school, which gives them the ability to graduate a semester early.

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**Ty Sanow**

Ty is our sole May graduate this year, and the program’s 4th graduate overall. Ty transferred to SDSU from one of the area tech schools and was able to graduate after only two years in CIM thanks to the credits he brought to SDSU with him. He graduated with a minor in marketing and has accepted an offer from Knife River in aggregate sales in the Sioux Falls market.

**Congratulations and best of luck, Ty!**



Ty delivering his capstone presentation at the Spring 25 patron’s luncheon.

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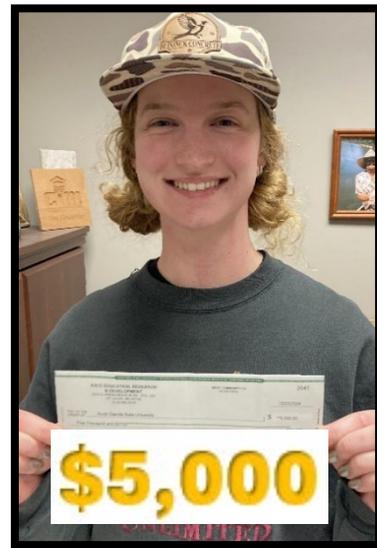
**Scholarships**

- This was a banner year for outside scholarships for our students. The year started off with sophomore Grace Jensen winning the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) scholarship of \$5000, a first for our program and for SDSU as well.
- Junior Pete Benson followed that up by winning the Weatherton Award presentations at World of Concrete and the associated \$2500 scholarship (another first for SDSU).
- Sophomore Jakob Burckhard picked up the Carbon Cure scholarship of \$2000, with comments from the Carbon Cure judges that he had written one of the better essays they have had the pleasure of receiving.
- The semester was capped off by sophomore Kate Connor winning the AOE fellowship/ACI foundation scholarship of \$10,000 (yet another SDSU first.)



Jakob Burckhard

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. Thank you for your hard work and for putting our program and SDSU on the national concrete map!



Grace Jensen



Peter Benson



Kate Connor

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**Student Travel**

Our students had the opportunity to travel to many industry events again this year, an experience which helps accelerate their professional and personal development. Starting with the NRMCA Concrete Works in Denver, we had contingents attending the ARM convention in Minnesota, the North Dakota Concrete Convention in Fargo, the World of Concrete in Las Vegas, the South Dakota Concrete Conference in Sioux Falls, the Iowa Concrete Paving Association’s annual workshop in Des Moines, and the NRMCA Annual Convention in Tucson. Many thanks to all of our industry partners and Patrons for facilitating and sponsoring us for these events.



Kate and Christina try to figure out how to get the concrete rabbit from the Las Vegas airport into their carry-on luggage

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Chico CIM alumni Wyatt Roseman discusses life post-CIM with the SDSU World of Concrete attendees

Christina and Robo help out judging the truck rodeo at NRMCA's Concrete Works



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**Field Trips**

Another differentiating factor for CIM from the other programs is our field trip schedule. It is challenging logistically to keep it together and moving, but it is another crucial component of the students' development and understanding of the industry. Again, many thanks to our Patron companies for welcoming us to your facilities and taking the time to explain how everything works.



Phil Joseph of Cemcast shows the 350 class the finer points of the precast pipe manufacturing process

The 101 class at the ever-popular LG Everist Brookings aggregate plant tour, conducted by Dale Bille



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*The 101 class at GCC's Volga cement terminal*



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**Alumni Spotlight “...once the concrete gets into your blood, it stays there.”**

This issue’s alumni spotlight features Dr. Matt Young, graduate of the MTSU program. Matt has come around full circle in CIM by teaching the 400 level Industrial Sales class for us last semester.

Matt says;

*“I first learned about the CIM program from Dr. Heather Brown in an introductory course at MTSU. Seemed interesting at the time and later asked my fraternity brother, Zach Langford, who explained many reasons to change majors. Being intrigued by paid internships, 100% job placement, business/technical degree, and industry participation, I signed up. The first internship was with the North Georgia Ready Mix division of Ready-Mix USA and worked under Brent Rollins. He taught me many things concerning quality control, technical nuances of concrete, and how to conduct myself as a professional.*



*Matt with wife Catherine and sons Samuel and Sawyer*

*The following summer, Rinker Materials brought me onboard in the Jacksonville, FL market. This internship position provided new challenges and opportunities with dispatch, batching, plant maintenance, and on-site field services. I was thankful for Mark Arbuckle who took me under his wing and allowed me to figure out plant and dispatch problems.*

*After graduation, Sika Corporation provided me with an opportunity to work within their admixture concrete division. As the first CIM hired by Sika, I was glad to be managed by Jason Zelinski who taught me many things about the concrete business and allowed me to make mistakes. Additionally, Paul Ramsburg, Ralph Hodgins, and Mark Sinicrope were all very supportive and shared their knowledge*

*of concrete to steer me in the right direction. From the corporate business side of Sika, there was valuable exposure at sales meetings to Mike Champion’s leadership and management over the concrete divisions.”*

*“Fast forward to 2025, I work for a company that weaves carbon, aramid, and glass fiber fabrics for fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) systems. Jobs, locations, and roles have changed over the years; however, once the concrete gets into your blood, it stays there. The CIM program is a unique degree that provides many career paths of success. The industry, people, and mentors helped me along the way and taught me a great deal. Today, I am happy for what the industry and relationships have given my family and the opportunity to adjunct for the CIM 480 Industrial Sales & Marketing course at SDSU.”*

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## Patrons' Page

Jim Simunek of Knife River's Sioux Falls operation is this issue's featured Patron.

Jim writes;



### **Bridging Academia and Industry**

*The CIM program at SDSU offers students a comprehensive education that encompasses concrete materials science, project management, and business acumen. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences, including laboratory work and field studies, ensuring they are well-prepared for the multifaceted challenges of the concrete industry.*

### **Knife River: A Strategic Partner**

*Knife River Corporation, a prominent construction materials and contracting company, has been instrumental in supporting the CIM program. Recognizing the program's potential to cultivate skilled professionals, Knife River has provided internships that offer students real-world experience in various aspects of the concrete industry. These internships allow students to apply their academic knowledge to practical situations, enhancing their understanding and readiness for post-graduate careers.*

### **Internship Impact**

*The collaboration between SDSU and Knife River has yielded significant benefits for students. Interns have reported gaining valuable insights into quality control, project management, and customer relations. The immersive nature of these internships ensures that students are not only observers but active participants in ongoing projects, fostering a deeper connection to the industry and its practices.*

### **A Model for Industry-Academic Collaboration**

*The partnership between SDSU's CIM program and Knife River exemplifies the positive outcomes of aligning educational programs with industry needs. By providing students with practical experiences and potential career pathways, this collaboration ensures that graduates are well-equipped to meet the demands of the concrete industry. Such initiatives serve as a model for how academic institutions and industry leaders can work together to develop a skilled and ready workforce.*

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*The 210 class shows off the concrete tic tac toe sets they made with the help of Chad and Amber Guthmiller of Artisan Concrete.*

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***Patrons ' Challenge - Continued from Issue 1***

At present, there are over 60 companies and individuals listed on the North Central Region Patron's list. My challenge to each of you is simple: send us one student. Check with your co-workers, vendors, customers, neighbors, and relatives. Discover who has children approaching college age and inform them of the CIM program and the incredible opportunities in the concrete industry. If we get one student per Patron per year, we will be well above our target of 100 students in the major by year 5. I believe it will take this grass-roots effort by all our industry Patrons to truly grow this program to the level we want and need it to be.



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*Jakob, Kate, Tanner, and Nate with a decorative slab poured by the 440 class. Thanks to Erik at Stan Houston for loaning the stamps for the project*

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### **Closing Thoughts**

The program is growing, which was the intent from the onset. However, with growth comes a few growing pains. With over 50 students and twelve CIM classes, 2 labs, and the online sessions, it has grown too big for one person to effectively handle.

We advertised for a full-time faculty member last year but received no applications from viable candidates. We have had a posting up for two months this spring with much the same result. The link to the posting is below, if you know of anyone in your network who may be interested, please send them our direction.

<https://yourfuture.sdbor.edu/postings/42711>

Best Regards,

Tim

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