

University of Arizona

Construction Engineering Management

Spring 2025 Update



Connecting industry and students

In this [Construction Engineering Management \(CEM\)](#) update we spotlight one of our industry donors, three of our graduating students, 14 freshmen in the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program, student construction teams, a student sustainable construction certification initiative, alumni spotlight, and student recipients of the DBIA and Lloyd Scholarships. It has been a phenomenal year for UA Construction!

CEM Endowment Donor Spotlight

Granite contributes to the UA Construction Engineering Endowment on a yearly basis with donations going toward the UA CEM Endowment. Additionally, Granite contributes to the program in many ways throughout the year. This year Will Vail, Isaiah Bell, Braedy Slagel, and Paul Preston helped coach the UA Heavy Civil team. In *CE381 Construction Engineering Management*, Paul Preston facilitated a series of classes on quantity takeoff and estimating which culminated in a mock bid held at Granite's Tucson office and staffed by a cadre of Granite personnel. Richard Marmion with Granite facilitated two site visits to the Grant Road construction project. Granite regularly hires UA student interns, including one this year from the UA Beavers Freshman Intern program.

Industry involvement is essential in keeping the UA CEM program relevant and practical. Please consider joining our industry partners listed below in making significant annual donations to build the CEM Endowment which is intended to be a sustainable funding source for CEM and a pipeline of next-generation construction engineers.



Meet Our Construction Students

Macie Balkan, Josh Martinez, and Serianna Hixson, UA Civil Engineering (BS May 2025)



Macie learned P6 scheduling software in her UA construction class. Her summer employer was so impressed with her skills that they asked her to develop a simple user's manual for P6 for others at work to use. This fall Macie was a key member of a five-woman team that won first place in the [National DBIA Student Competition](#). On this student Design-Build team, Macie assumed the role of scheduler and produced a schedule and analyzed risks for an airport terminal addition. Macie grew her team collaboration skills and her presentation skills through participation on this team. Macie will be starting a full time field engineering position with McCarthy in Phoenix after she graduates.

Josh is from Tucson and his father is a civil engineer with Smyth. I met Josh his sophomore year and saw that he was drawn to construction. Last summer he interned for Barnard on a dam project in Colorado. This year he was the co-captain of our UA Heavy Civil team. At the regional competition in Reno, Nevada, Josh collaborated with his team to develop a construction management plan for an Airforce runway replacement in Hawaii. Josh is a UA Beavers scholarship recipient which recognizes his excellence as a student and commitment to heavy construction. After graduation Josh is joining Kraemer North American to work on highway and bridge projects.



Serianna led her Commercial Building team to an impressive second place award in the Associated Schools of Construction Competition in Reno in Feb. 2025. Serianna has also served as the president of our DBIA student chapter. For 3 years she has participated in UA Rise Together Mentoring program where she has been paired with UA Civil Engineering alumni Abby Davidson (Turner Construction). Serianna has received valuable guidance and encouragement from her mentor. After graduation Serianna is joining McCarthy.



UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internships



Four years ago, we launched the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program. This May, after interning with PCL for 3 years, Sophia Della Croce is starting full time with PCL in Phoenix. During her senior year, Sophia was captain of her two-semester capstone project. There are **fourteen** new freshmen in this year's cohort of UA Beavers Interns. During the spring, these students were introduced to career opportunities in Heavy Construction through conversations with industry partners (Granite, Kraemer, Sundt, Aldridge, Flatiron, and Hunter), a construction site visit, internship



preparation activities like plan reading, excel, and Bluebeam, and OSHA 10 certification. This month, students are heading into internships with our great industry partners listed below. Our goal is to share the diverse array of opportunities in heavy construction and recruit students into the industry. We are grateful to the Beavers Heavy Civil association for their support and to our many industry partners.



UA Commercial Building, Heavy Civil, & Sustainable Building Teams

This spring UA returned to the [Associated Schools of Construction \(ASC\) Region 6 & 7](#) competition with a heavy civil team and a commercial building team. This was the first year for UA to break through to the platform and receive **second place** recognition in the Commercial Building competition. Additionally, Jose Ortega, a senior on our team, was recognized with an **Ingenuity Award** for implementing CMBUILDER 3D visualization software to demonstrate the proposed building site logistics. Ian McDowell (Sundt) has been coaching this team for a number of years now.



Thanks to this year's corporate program partners.

**Alta Southwest * Beavers * Borderland * CalPortland
Chasse * CORE * DPR * Ellison-Mills * Granite
Gervasio & Assoc. * Hensel Phelps * KE&G * Kiewit
Kraemer * Lloyd * M3 * McCarthy * RLB * Sundt
Whiting-Turner**

Thanks to this year's individual donors to CEM.

Barry & Adrienne Abbott, Spencer Browne, Sal Caccavale, Seth Chalmers, Phil Hall,
Mike & Marie Hoover, H.G. Mackintosh Foundation, Travis & Shannon McCarthy, Matthew McDole,
Dean Papajohn, Dorothy Chavez-Dolan, Becki Nelson,

Sustainable Construction

Eric Le Peau and Esteban Hinojos are freshmen from Tucson. This fall they submitted a proposal and were awarded a grant from the *Campus Sustainability Fund* for \$5,000. Their proposal involved helping UA students from across campus obtain sustainability training through the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure (Envision), the U.S. Green Building Council (LEED), and Green Building Initiatives (Green Globes). They call their project *Certified to Sustain*. They coordinated all the details from advertising, selection, guiding, budgeting, and reporting. This is an amazing endeavor for freshmen to undertake. Eric and Esteban will both be starting construction internships this summer with Ames and Sundt through the UA Beavers Intern program.



CEM Alumni Spotlight

Drew Jenkins, UA Civil Engineering
(BS May 2020)

Drew joined Sundt as an intern during his senior year and started full time after graduation and is now a project engineer and has supervised UA student interns. Drew shares his enthusiasm for construction with our UA students as a guest speaker for the DBIA and AGC student chapters. He also provides feedback for our UA Commercial Building team. Drew was captain of the design-build team when he was a student, and he also served as the student president for our DBIA chapter. We are grateful for UA alumni who stay connected with UA Construction Engineering Management and invest in our students.



DBIA Western Pacific Region Scholarship

Tejus Gokal, UA Civil Engineering student

Tejus Gokal has been selected for a \$3,000 scholarship from the *Design-Build Institute of America Western Pacific Region (DBIA WPR)*. Tejus is the newly elected president of the DBIA UA Chapter after serving as the secretary this year. This fall Tejus is returning to the *UA Commercial Building Team* as the team captain.



Lloyd Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Dylan McMahon and Estefania Ramon for being awarded the Lloyd Construction Scholarship 2025-26 through the Arizona Builders Alliance. Dylan has been in the UA Beavers Intern program for three years and is starting his third summer internship with Teichert. Estefania is starting an internship with Ames on the US 60 Queen Creek Bridge. Estefania has had previous internships with Granite and Hensel Phelps.



Thank you

This spring I was honored to be selected by our graduating students to speak at the Civil & Architectural Engineering commencement ceremony on May 16, 2025. With this year's graduating class, 33% of our civil engineers and 25% of our architectural engineers have an emphasis in construction and are entering the construction industry. It is a privilege to work with our UA engineering students. The resources and opportunities we can offer our students exist only because of the strong support of our alumni and industry partners. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dean Papajohn

Dean Papajohn, PE, PhD, ENV SP, Assoc. DBIA
Professor of Practice
Civil & Architectural Engineering
May 18, 2025



Giving

You can give online at [Give Today](#) or checks can be written to the UA Foundation and sent to:

Arturo Ross, The University of Arizona Foundation, PO Box 210109, Tucson, AZ 85721-0109

Please designate your gift for either

- **CAEM Construction Engineering Management (CEM) Endowed Fund** (for building a sustainable funding source for CEM) or
- **CAEM Construction Engineering Management (CEM) General Fund** (for current operating expenses).

Automatic monthly or one-time gifts can be set up. Thank you!

