

University of Arizona

Construction Engineering Management

Spring 2026 Update



Connecting industry and students

In this [Construction Engineering Management \(CEM\)](#) update we spotlight one of our industry donors, six construction certificate recipients, the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program, the CEM Certificate, student construction teams, a new U of A class on construction equipment and methods, construction site visits, and scholarship recipients. It has been a phenomenal year for Construction Engineering Management at U of A!

CEM Endowment Donor Spotlight

Sundt has been a substantial partner with the UA Construction Engineering Management program since its beginning. Engineers with Sundt provide feedback on curriculum development, serve as guest instructors for construction classes, mentor construction students, coach the UA Commercial Building team, present at AGC and DBIA chapter meetings, participate in the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program, and hire interns and full time employees. Sundt also makes annual contributions in support of the UA CEM Endowment. This spring, Sundt hosted construction site visits at two project sites: I-10, Kino to Country Club Road in Tucson, and the Ocotillo Road, Greenfield to Higley in Gilbert.



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 will serve as a sustainable funding source for CEM and a pipeline of next-generation construction engineers.



HENSEL PHELPS
Plan. Build. Manage.



Hunter
CONTRACTING CO.



Construction Engineering Management Certificate

Lisa Chacon, Mariandree De Leon Bran, Rodrigo De Leon Bran, John Dawson, and (not pictured) Samantha Ramos and Sawyer Brewer



This May we awarded U of A Construction Engineering management Certificates to six students. The Certificate program is designed for students outside of the Civil & Architectural Engineering Departments. The Certificate program prepares students for careers in commercial building and heavy construction.

- **Sawyer** is graduating with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Business Administration. He is joining **Sundt**.
- **Lisa** has been working full-time with Lloyd and will continue with **Lloyd**.
- **John** is graduating with a degree in Urban and Regional Development and a minor in Business Administration. He is joining **Hensel Phelps**.
- **Mariandree** is graduating with a degree in Biosystems Analytics. She is joining **DPR**.
- **Rodrigo** is a senior in Computer Science. He is interning with **Barnard** this summer and will return to U of A for his senior year. He is a member of the UA Heavy Civil team.
- **Samantha** is graduating with a degree in Environmental Science. She is joining **Barnard**.

The Construction Engineering Management Certificate program has been a growth area with 28 students enrolled. The Certificate program is expanding the pool of people preparing for careers in the construction industry.

Thanks to our individual 2025-2026 donors to CEM.

Barry Abbott, Becki Nelson, Joe Gevasio, Henry George Mackintosh Foundation, Mike Hoover & Marie Torres, the Beavers Association, Travis & Shannon McCarthy, Matthew McDole, Sal Caccavale, Phil Hall, Seth Chalmers, Dean Papajohn

And thanks to our special CEM endowment donors.

Dave & Dede Areghini, Dave & Penny Crawford, Ron & Kay Harper



UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internships



This May, three seniors from the second cohort of students in the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program are graduating and heading into heavy construction careers. Keegan Kyrolainen is joining Kraemer North America, Dylan McMahon is joining PCL, and Mark Andricopoulos is joining Kiewit. Keegan, Dylan, and Mark have all been recipients of the Beavers National Scholarship. The UA Beavers Intern program provided Keegan, Dylan, and Mark an early entry into heavy civil construction after their freshman year. Keegan has served as captain of the UA Heavy Civil team for ASC-Reno, as well as president and vice president of AGC, and vice president of ASCE. Dylan has served as president and treasurer of AGC and Mark has served as ASCE social chair, Kiewit campus ambassador, and UA Engineering ambassador.

The UA Beavers Heavy Construction Intern program continues this this year with 14 new freshmen. Recruitment occurs during the fall, students participate in a construction internship preparation seminar in the spring, and work as an intern during the summer with the 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.



SUNDT

SKANSKA



Kiewit



Hawaiian
Electric



UA Commercial Building, Heavy Civil, & DB teams

Students on the UA Commercial Building team and Heavy Civil team meet weekly with industry coaches to prepare for the [Associated Schools of Construction \(ASC\) Region 6 & 7](#) competition. Ian McDowell with Sundt served as coach for the commercial building team and Miguel Martinez and Richard Marmion with Granite served as the coaches for the heavy civil team. Practice problems were provided by Kraemer, Hunter, Granite, Sundt, and Willmeng.

The Design-Build team competed in the DBIA National Student Competition in the fall and placed first in the DBIA Western Pacific Region. These teams help students develop practical skills for their future careers.



Thanks to our 2025-2026 Construction team sponsors.

**Aldridge * Barnard * Borderland * CalPortland * CORE
DPR * Ellison-Mills * Granite * Hensel Phelps
Horrocks * Hunter * KE&G * Kiewit * Kraemer * Lloyd
M3 * McCarthy * RLB * Sundt * Tofel Dent
Whiting-Turner * W. W. Clyde * Zona**

CE485 Construction Equipment & Methods

This spring I taught a new class, CE485 Construction Equipment & Methods. This was a rewarding experience due to the enthusiasm of our students and the involvement of so many phenomenal industry partners. The 38 students who enrolled learned about the capabilities of various pieces of equipment and calculated productivity rates and costs, and learned about site logistics and safety. Student understanding of real world applications was enhanced through the presentations and activities offered by industry partners, including:

- Dozers with Colin Kyröläinen, **Caterpillar**
- Scrapers with Any North, **Borderland**
- VST (Value Simulation Tool) with Paul Titzel, **Caterpillar**
- Deep excavation and shoring with Jay Alexander, **SAECO**
- Concrete paving with Scott Miller and Travis McCarthy, **Sundt**
- Asphalt paving with Jim Merrigan, **Granite**
- Excavators with Brian Reitmeyer, Noah Dayton, and Ryan Motijo, **Ellison-Mills**
- Temporary structures with Karl Kerkhof, **FlatironDragados**
- Tunnel & underground construction with Jimmy McGauley and Odai Haddidin, **Barnard**
- Cranes with Andy Dowd, James Heredia, and Austin Allen, **Whiting-Turner**
- Maintenance of traffic with Emily Kubovchik and Jim Schoen with **Kiewit**
- Managing megaprojects with Brandon Phillips, **ExxonMobil**



Construction Site Visits



In April, the Beavers and Sundt hosted a construction site visit at the Ocotillo Road Project in Gilbert, AZ. Students saw construction work on a post tensioned cast-in-place concrete box bridge built on a soffit fill, as well as precast AASHTO girders, cast-in-place concrete retaining walls, and drainage and utility work. Other site visits this spring include the I-10, Kino Parkway to County Club Road project with Sundt, Casino Del Sol on Grant Road with McCarthy, and the Asia Pavillion at the Reed Park Zoo with Lloyd.

Student Scholarships

DBIA Western Pacific Region Scholarship

Logan Kunze has been selected for a \$3,000 scholarship from the *Design-Build Institute of America Western Pacific Region (DBIA WPR)*. Logan joined the UA Beavers Internship program as a freshman and interned with Kraemer in Colorado. He is a member of the UA Heavy Civil Team and served as secretary of AGC this past year and is the current AGC president.



National Beavers Scholarship

Congratulations to Sofia Martinez and Karla Mendez for being selected as National Beavers Scholarship recipients. This is the fourth year in a row where U of A has had two students recognized by the Beavers for this highly competitive scholarship. Sofia and Karla will each receive \$10,000 for the 2026-27 academic year. Sofia and Karla both participated in the UA Beavers Intern program their freshman year. They are both interning with Sundt this summer and both will return to the UA Heavy Civil team in the fall.



Lloyd Scholarship

Jaden Buchanan has been awarded the Lloyd Construction Scholarship for 2026-27 through the Arizona Builders Alliance. Jaden started in the UA Beavers Internship Program as a freshman and has been interning with McCarthy. He also helps coach a high school wrestling team.





Thank you

This spring I was honored to be selected by our graduating students as outstanding professor in the Civil & Architectural Engineering Department. Thirty-four percent of the graduating seniors are starting their careers in construction. 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 17, 2026

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)

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



Shade structure project constructed with help from our generous industry partners JB Steel, CORE, Divine Concrete, Terracon, and the Sayles Education Endowment, as well as the UA Campus Sustainability Fund and UA Facilities Management.

