

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## BUILDING ON A RICH HERITAGE



CHUCK KNIGHT

It is customary for the ICRI President to offer comments at the beginning of a new term; however, I want to first offer a congratulatory note to Randy Beard, our Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and CAM, along with its executive staff, for guiding the organization in adjusting itself to an economy that will eventually emerge from the current recession. The aforementioned, along with our active membership and local chapters, have given ICRI a strong foundation, not just for balanced budget purposes but also for seeking new marketing and educational opportunities to serve the collective needs of the concrete repair industry. As your President for 2010, I readily admit that there are some very large shoes to fill from Randy's term. He, along with his predecessors, has set the bar very high in our 22 years as an organization. Wisdom, grace, and diplomacy have all survived from our previous officers and members. Let us not stop there—we must build on that rich heritage!

If you recall, it was Randy who expended tireless efforts to update our bylaws and policy manual. We are now well positioned to move forward in a challenged industry, within a challenged economy. While attending the ICRI World of Concrete Kick-Off Party in Las Vegas, NV, I could not help but be impressed by the amount and the quality of student participation. Today, the Internet offers so many opportunities to study remotely that it becomes less clear to students that they must actually go to a campus to learn. No matter how advanced

our technology becomes, it will never be able to replace the value of students working and learning side-by-side with members of ICRI. Our organization must continue to enhance opportunities for student engagement—as members and as peers—to further our strategic advantage within our industry. Please remember that these students will have careers within our industry that will span most of the twenty-first century.

In addition to following through on projects established under Randy's leadership and keeping up-to-date with committee goals and activities, I would like to respectfully request the following goals to guide this term and to meet the needs of our membership:

- To increase opportunities for your individual involvement among existing members and committee participation;
- To assist in the recruitment of new members/students—that is, an individual goal for each of us to be responsible for one new member/student;
- To become more active in local chapter administration and functions; and
- To give serious consideration about who we are today—as ICRI—in all the meanings of “we” as a technical and advisory group to the industry.

I know that we can have that conversation within the context of some of the thoughts mentioned previously, along with the changes and accomplishments that we can achieve this year. As ICRI, we are all in a position to affect our progress and move forward during our twenty-second year. I hope that each of you will join me in that conversation and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to suggest that we have it.