

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A WINNING FORMULA: EDUCATION + EXPERTISE + EXCHANGE



CHUCK KNIGHT

When considering ICRI, stop for a moment and ask yourself, “Why do we do what we do?” All of us try to balance our personal commitments and work responsibilities and still find the time to serve ICRI. When I first became a member of ICRI, my reason was quite simple: to become more educated in the field of concrete repair. Since then, however, my reasons for serving as a committee Chair and serving on the Board of Directors have deepened. I do it for selfish and, at the same time, altruistic reasons. On the selfish side, it gives me access to a Board of Directors and general membership that collectively have innumerable years of professional experience in our industry. I certainly have learned from them. They are awe inspiring in their various disciplinary approaches to our industry. It is an understatement to say they ground me, but I learn from them and they teach me all at the same time. Serving on the ICRI Board of Directors has allowed me to learn about myself in a context that complements both work and life. I learn about the community and about sustaining the industry in which we all work. Ultimately, I continue to learn about a very enviable and educational resource—concrete repair.

In serving as your President for 2010, this is where I get to give back to the Board of Directors and membership that have nurtured me and seen me grow as a professional and as a person. It is also an opportunity for me to leave a mark on our association, as it heads toward its twenty-fifth anniversary. Our institute has achieved the objectives it set at last year’s Executive Committee meeting in Chicago, IL. My vision for this year remains in concert with the vision of those before me: to inspire **education** for students and our membership, to foster **expertise** in the concrete repair industry, and to facilitate **exchange** of all that “we do in what we do.” Our strategic goals include growing membership to ensure the continued financial viability of the Institute, delivering an educational platform that is relevant to our membership and audience, and planning for our future by recruiting new talent.

In our day jobs, I think we all foster an open-door policy. In the same spirit, I invite all of you to become more involved in ICRI. By that, I just don’t mean renewing your membership—although that is definitely the first step. I invite each of you to become an active part of your local chapter and to frequently attend as many meetings as your schedule will allow; give the chapter feedback; offer suggestions; and, perhaps most importantly, become an advocate for ICRI.

I think it is important to give you a bit of insight into the inner workings of ICRI. Every summer in July, the Executive Committee convenes for 2 days in Chicago, IL. The best way to summarize it is to say that it is a form of a strategic planning meeting. The course is set for the coming year; and, much like a business, the remainder of the year is focused on implementing the plan. ICRI is structured into 12 administrative committees. There is one of those committees that I would like to emphasize for this year—Certification—which is launching the Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification program.

This year, I would encourage you to visit ICRI’s Web site, www.icri.org. It contains a wealth of information, ranging from a calendar of events to past event information. More and more, we will leverage our Web site to receive your feedback and insights so that we can continuously improve what we are doing.

Lest we forget, decision makers in our industry are changing, and our work is being transformed daily. We are all being called upon to sustain current levels of activities with fewer and fewer resources. Our personal perspectives are easily displaced by work environment fatigue and cynicism.

Here is where ICRI can help us all. As a collective force in the industry, we can exchange information and ideas with each other, discuss the issues, and learn more about the concrete repair industry’s economy and technical guidelines. With a speaker lineup designated to educate at our local and national meetings, there is no limit to how ICRI can transform our thoughts, our knowledge base, and our perspectives.

The plan is in place for ICRI. Now, I invite you all to play on our team and to make 2010 a year to remember! Are you with me?