



Pictured From Left: Isaac L. Howard, MSU CEE Faculty Member; Tim Cost, Holcim (US) Inc., Sr. Technical Service Engineer, ACI Fellow; Jay Shannon, MSU CEE PhD Student

ANNOUNCEMENT

Holcim (US) Inc. has recently provided the inaugural gift that established the *Cement and Concrete Industries Excellence Fund* for Mississippi State University's (MSU's) Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Department. The gift was made official in June of 2012.

Isaac L. Howard, materials engineering faculty member of CEE department, stated "This is a significant step toward improving concrete materials graduate education and research within the department. We have several current and potential students who are interested in concrete materials and applications. Holcim's generous support of the CEE program is very timely since opportunities for graduate study in concrete materials have been somewhat limited on campus over the past few years."

While this gift is significant, it is not the beginning of the relationship between Holcim (US) Inc. and MSU as explained by Isaac L. Howard. "Tim Cost has been heavily involved with all aspects of the materials engineering program pertaining to cement and concrete for as long as I have been on the CEE faculty. Having an industry recognized leader involved in the program gives me a lot of confidence moving forward into PhD students studying concrete materials. Absent Tim's experience and guidance, moving toward PhD level concrete materials research would be a much more daunting task." Jay Shannon (newly admitted PhD student studying concrete materials) indicated "it's a great opportunity for me to be able to pursue my PhD at Mississippi State, studying concrete materials under Dr. Howard and other top researchers".

"The Mississippi State CEE department is a preferred source of civil engineering graduates for our engineering and construction market place, and has also become a recognized hub for construction materials research," Cost points out. "We at Holcim are proud to be able to help support and strengthen the department's capabilities relating to cement and concrete."

ABOUT HOLCIM (US) INC.

Holcim (US) Inc. is a subsidiary of Holcim Ltd, and one of the nation's leading manufacturers and suppliers of portland and blended cements and supplementary cementitious materials for concrete. Holcim (US) has approximately 1800 employees and operates 12 manufacturing plants and more than 50 distribution facilities in the United States

CONTACT INFORMATION

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