Meet Our Experts

CRSI Members have priority access to these technical experts whenever a situation arises!

David A. Fanella, PhD, PE, SE, FACI, FASCE, FSEI
Senior Director of Engineering

Dave’s proficiency and expertise in reinforced concrete design is well regarded in the design community. His role at CRSI is to facilitate the development and output of technical information produced by the Institute as well as directing and providing assistance to our technical department and member committees. He was the recipient of the Alfred E. Lindau Award from the American Concrete Institute in 2014.

Prior to joining CRSI, Dave was Principal at a consulting structural engineering firm in Chicago, IL. He is a member of a number of ACI Committees and serves as an Associate Member on the ASCE 7 Committee. He is also past president of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois.

Amy Trygestad, PE, FACI
Vice President of Engineering

Amy’s responsibilities as Vice President of Engineering include overseeing the Engineering Department and the development of all technical publications and standards. In her prior CRSI position as Director of Codes and Standards, she identified opportunities, developed strategies, and created code change proposals, and revised to current standards. She also assisted in the development of new CRSI standards documents to advance building requirements that are favorable to the steel reinforced concrete industry.

Amy was the president and principal engineer of Chase Engineering as well as a consulting principal engineer with CTLGroup before joining the Institute. She participated in the Portland Cement Association Program dealing with Buildings and Special Structures for the Central US. Amy served as the concrete industry representative on the Editorial Board for STRUCTURE, the official magazine of the three national structural engineering organizations in the United States—NCSEA, CASE (ACEC), and SEI (ASCE). She holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota.

Kelley Severns, PE, PMP
Transportation Representative

Kelley is responsible for closely working with bridge and structures owners, as well as design, construction, inspection, and preservation contractors to promote the use of steel reinforced concrete throughout the United States’ transportation system. She serves as a great resource for technical information and research needs for the bridge industry.

Kelley received her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Kentucky, and worked extensively in the design and construction of bridges early in her career. Kelley acted as the Program Manager for Bridges and Structures for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) for over 10 years, working closely with national technical committees to develop standards and specifications in all aspects of steel reinforced concrete structures development. Prior to CRSI, she spent five years in the consulting business, where she was a national lead, program, and project manager for bridge research.

Nathan Westin, PE
Technical Director

Nathan is responsible for providing technical expertise in the design and construction of reinforced concrete structures. Nathan assists in the development of technical publications by the Institute and is staff liaison for CRSI technical committees, as well as a member of several ACI and ASTM code committees.

Prior to joining CRSI, Nathan worked as an engineering consultant where he oversaw multiple projects regarding the performance of structural products, systems and materials. Nathan also worked in manufacturing on R&D projects for anchor systems and designed structural anchor connections. Additionally, Nathan has experience as a project engineer on a multi-billion-dollar mixed use project where he supervised the construction of engineering works. Nathan has a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from University of Illinois at Chicago.
Kevin Bott, PE

Kevin joined CRSI as Western Region Manager after 13 years of experience as a structural engineer in Tampa, FL. His design experience spans an assortment of structures, including football stadiums, hospitals, theme parks and entertainment structures, and parking garages.

He recently worked as a forensic engineer for litigated claims, which mainly involved water intrusion and the building envelope. Kevin also executed storm damage assessments and repair protocols for buildings damaged by hurricanes. Kevin primarily utilizes his expertise in his promotion of reinforced concrete on the west coast. However, he also works closely with Pacific Northwest Manager, Paul Dye, to offer support throughout the entire Western region.

Western Region Manager

Paul Dye

Paul brings more than 37 years of experience in combined roles in the reinforcing steel industry to CRSI. With extensive experience in the Pacific Northwest and a dedication to promoting, sustaining and enhancing the reinforcing steel industry, Paul maintains an extensive understanding of operations, sales, estimating, detailing, and fabrication within the industry.

The last 15 years Paul was Vice President and COO of (CRSI member company) Precision Rebar & Accessories, Inc., Vancouver, WA. Previously he was Regional Manager for Graham Steel in Vancouver, and worked as a project manager for Western Coating in Ogden, UT. He started his reinforcing steel career with Graham Steel in Kirkland, WA, where he advanced his experiences and extensive working knowledge of the many aspects the industry provides.

Pacific Northwest Manager

Rob Kinchler, PE

Rob joined CRSI in early 2016 and promotes the benefits of reinforced concrete construction to the marketplace. Rob is a structural engineer with years of experience designing industrial and commercial projects. Rob’s background includes developing conceptual budgets and utilizing subcontractor relationships to more accurately determine up front project costs.

Rob received his MS in structural engineering from Auburn University in 1991. Prior to working with CRSI, Rob worked with AISC as a regional engineer. He was responsible for putting together conceptual budgets for projects using steel, developing design fabricate build teams, giving technical presentations, and promoting the use of steel. Before that, he worked with Raytheon Engineers and Constructors and Burns & McDonnell EAC designing concrete and steel structures for power plants, paper mills, and other industrial facilities.

Greater Southwestern Region Manager

Brett Lord

Brett brings extensive knowledge of concrete and the concrete construction industries. In his role as Region Manager, Brett promotes the use of steel reinforced concrete in construction within the Southeastern United States and serve as an industry resource on both regional and national levels.

Immediately prior to joining CRSI, he was the Director of Technical Services at McCarthy Improvement Company. In addition to various technical roles in the ready-mix concrete industry, he has also worked in the autoclaved aerated concrete and lightweight aggregate industries. In the late 1980s Brett served in the United States Army as a Sergeant (E-5) Infantryman, 25th Infantry Division. Brett is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences.

Southeast Region Manager

David Shepherd, AIA

David joined the CRSI team as Midwest Region Manager and utilizes his vast experience to promote the benefits of reinforced concrete to design professionals, contractors, governmental agency staff and academic institutions. David is a licensed architect with over 35 years in the construction industry.

Prior to joining CRSI, David spent the past 18 years at the Portland Cement Association, most recently as Director of Sustainable Development, and previously as Residential Technology Program Manager. Additionally, David worked for a commercial general contractor, was a construction manager for a major real estate investment/management company and a principal of a residential design/build business.

Midwest Region Manager

Matt Shergalis, PE

Matt joined the CRSI team as Northeast Region Manager after a decade of engineering and architect/engineer/contractor marketing experience, which includes a strong emphasis on business development. Matt received his BS in Civil Engineering from Trine University and his MBA from Butler University.

Prior to CRSI, Matt was Principal at the Infrastructure Advisory Group, LLC, where he assisted organizations in the development of strategic marketing campaigns for the launch of new products, established targeted messaging to customer identified needs, among other skills. In his previous roles, Matt worked with such national associations as the FHWA, AASHTO, and State Departments of Transportation, in the development of technical resources.

Northeast Region Manager