

LEADERSHIP NPCA: A Q&A with Graduates

Three LNPCA graduates discuss what the program taught them about leadership.

Leadership NPCA invites employees of NPCA producer, associate, and professional member companies to accelerate their growth as high-potential employees.

During the year-long program, the focus of learning is emotional intelligence with a heavy emphasis on self-awareness, self-management, knowledge of human differences, quality listening, feedback and motivation. Participants also work on values and personal presence, including writing and presenting a values-purpose statement.

Precast Inc. sat down with three LNPCA graduates and asked how the program has impacted them as leaders in their professional career and personal life.



Chris Reese

Easi-Set Worldwide
Senior Engineer
2019 Leadership NPCA Graduate

Why were you interested in joining Leadership NPCA? What was happening in your career at the time you started?

I've been in the industry for about 11 1/2 years now. I first started on the manufacturing

side of the business with Smith-Midland and I am now the engineering manager for Easi-Set Worldwide. I was interested in LNPCA because I was eager and committed to advance my professional and personal career, as well as the precast concrete industry. Also, at the time my department and company were both experiencing great growth, so the timing was perfect for me to join.

What valuable lessons did you take away from the program?

There was a lot of valuable information, but certainly the listening and feedback activities helped me become a better communicator. The handbook that was provided during the program was a great resource with many great tools that I can reference back to.

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The atmosphere and the class, and certainly the instructor, made it possible to freely participate and discuss different scenarios and challenges within your career and personal life.

How has the class changed your perspective of leadership?

Obviously, a leader is one who has the ability to inspire, has a vision for success, takes chances and exemplifies a positive attitude. However, what struck home for me during the course was learning about self-awareness and self-acceptance. Understanding how to manage yourself successfully leads to a successful career as a leader.

Why would you recommend NPCA members join the next group?

It's a great step toward achieving a successful journey to become a better leader. It was a wealth of information and, along with the relationships and networking involved, the programming is invaluable.

2020 Leadership NPCA Participants

- Nate Benedict, Blackthorn LLC
- Nathan Brissette, Shea Concrete Products – Nottingham
- Monica Hernandez, Oldcastle Infrastructure
- Dustin McMinn, Crossland Prefab.
- Jason Miles, Columbia Precast Products LLC
- Patrick O'Connor, Atlantic TNG
- Keith Plokhoy, Lindsay Precast – Colorado Springs
- Mitchell Rainero, Permatile Concrete Products Co.
- Brittany Richardson, Gainey's Concrete Products Inc.
- Ashley Runion, Haarup North America Inc.
- Michael Vergona, Garden State Precast Inc.
- Brandon Walker, Jamestown Macadam Inc.