

## People and Firms

Carter Lake, Iowa-based **Owen Industries** (an AISC member) is now an official registered apprenticeship sponsor and offers a three-year, competency-based welder apprenticeship program. Late last year, the company began an interview and selection process, seeking four welder apprentices to offer on-the-job training as well as classroom training, in partnership with Iowa Western Community College, at no cost to the apprentice.

**Tyler Owen**, president of Owen Industries, commented, "We are very excited to offer an ongoing welding apprenticeship program to individuals interested in establishing their career path." After successful completion of Owen's program, welder apprentices will receive a nationally recognized Journeyman apprenticeship certificate from the United States Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship (OA).

Owen Industries offers full-time employment to their apprentices, thus an opportunity to earn a good wage while learning a new skill. "Our goal is to ensure that this new program provides high-quality training and produces skilled, competent workers who may not otherwise have an entry-level opportunity in a skilled trade of their interest," said Owen. "Finding and training dedicated workers is a win-win for our community and necessary for growing both our business and our local economy."

Owen Industries' welder apprenticeship program is ongoing and open to anyone who applies at the company's Carter Lake location, regardless of where they live. For questions or more information about the program, please contact **Ronald D. DeBord**, Owen Industries' vice president of human resources, at 712.347.5500 or [rdebord@owenind.com](mailto:rdebord@owenind.com).

## BRIDGES

### Updated I-Girder Bridge Resource Available

The National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA) has released an updated version of its *Skewed and Curved Steel I-Girder Bridge Fit* document at [www.steelbridges.org/bridgefit](http://www.steelbridges.org/bridgefit). This free resource offers additional guidance on proper detailing of bridges to ensure constructability.

"Fit" or "fit condition" refers to the deflected girder shape under specific loading conditions. This is important to steel bridge fabricators because it determines how the cross frames and

diaphragms are detailed to fit to the girders. In addition, fit affects bridge constructability by determining how much force is necessary to align the girders and cross-frame elevations.

The new document offers additional and expanded insights into how bridges should be detailed. Updates include minor changes to recommended fit conditions for horizontally curved bridges based on the recently finalized *Guidelines for Reliable Fit-Up of Steel I-Girder Bridges*.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Vincent J. DeSimone, Founder of DeSimone Consulting Engineers, Dies



Vincent J. DeSimone, PE, founder and chairman of New York-based DeSimone Consulting Engineers, passed away in November following a battle with cancer. He was 78 years old.

DeSimone established DeSimone Consulting Engineers in 1969 and has led the firm as senior principal-in-charge of design ever since. The firm has designed a vast range of projects over the decades, including the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College in Annandale-

on-Hudson, N.Y., and the Cosmopolitan Resort and Casino in Las Vegas (see the articles "Setting the Stage" and "Filling the Gap" at [www.modernsteel.com](http://www.modernsteel.com)).

Following DeSimone's death, his firm stated, "True to his life's calling, Vincent continued to work every day, despite his illness, to advance his engineering vision."

DeSimone is survived by his fiancée, Stefany Koo, two children and 15 grandchildren.

## BRIDGES

## Press-Brake Tub Girder System Introduced for Short-Span Bridges

The press-brake tub girder (PBTG) system has evolved from a research project to a viable solution for short-span bridges. The new technology—developed by the Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance (SSSBA) in conjunction with West Virginia University and Marshall University—was recently used to build the Amish Sawmill Bridge in Buchanan County, Iowa. In collaboration with members of SSSBA, the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Buchanan County Engineer worked to construct the bridge with funding through the Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment Program (IBRD).

According to SSSBA, the PBTG system was designed specifically for the short-span bridge market and offers a number of advantages over traditional systems used in short-span bridge construction. A standard plate size is folded into a trapezoidal shape using a press brake, similar to a larger steel tub girder; using standard plate sizes ensures that material is readily available and pricing is economical. Unlike the larger steel tub girder, the press-brake tub girder does not re-

quire welding, so fabrication time is significantly reduced. One girder can be produced in as little as 45 minutes, according to SSSBA. And because of the girder's lighter weight, a precast deck can be placed on the girder and shipped to the job site, a significant advantage in accelerated bridge construction (ABC). The weight savings also allows for installation with smaller cranes or by county engineering crews. (Through conversations with county engineers, the steel industry has determined that county

engineers can better control costs and find savings by using their own crews for construction.)

The Federal Highway Administration recently awarded the Ohio Department of Transportation and Muskingum County, Ohio, an Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) grant for the installation of a PBTG system with a sandwich plate deck system. West Virginia is also evaluating two locations for the system.

You can find more details on the PBTG system at SSSBA's website, [www.shortspansteelbridges.org](http://www.shortspansteelbridges.org).



## NASCC

## 2017 NASCC Registration Now Open

Registration for the 2017 NASCC: The Steel Conference is now open.

The Steel Conference is your once-a-year opportunity to engage with more than 4,000 of your peers involved in structural steel design and construction and learn the latest design concepts, construction techniques and cutting-edge research for steel buildings and bridges. The 2017 conference takes place March 22-24 in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and will offer more than 130 technical sessions and feature more than 220 exhibitors showcasing the latest equipment, software and tools.

Attendees can earn up to 17 PDHs by attending the conference's dynamic, expert-led sessions (plus an additional 4 PDHs if they attend the optional

pre-conference short course). Topics will range from "Practical Advice for Reviewing Software Generated Connection Designs" to "Lateral Torsional Buckling and its Influence on the Strength of Beams" to "Keeping OSHA out of your Bank Account." In addition, AISC has created a new program to explore "Solutions for Equity in the Workforce." This special 2½-hour session is being held on the opening day of the conference and offers a look at what diversity means for the design community and construction industry, with an emphasis on what works and what doesn't when creating solutions that can increase equity within the workplace.

You won't want to miss the keynote address, "The Neuroscience of Decision Making," presented by Carmen Simon,

PhD. Whether it's an email, brochure or presentation, a well-crafted message needs to be informative, reusable and adaptable. But according to Simon, it also needs to be memorable. Audiences typically only remember 10% of your presentation—and which 10% they remember varies from person to person. Using lessons learned from neuroscience, this session provides a unique approach to controlling what audiences remember about your message.

One registration fee gains you access to all of the technical sessions, the keynote address, the T.R. Higgins Lecture and the exhibition hall. Visit [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc) to register or view more conference information, including the advance program. But be sure to register soon, as the price increases weekly between now and the conference.