

CPI News

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CPI Announces Special January-April 2015 Session on Alcatraz with Historic Cell House Repair Project

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The Concrete Preservation Institute (CPI), a non-profit educational foundation partner to the National Park Service (NPS) and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC), is proud to be hosting an all-military veteran team for the 2015 CPI spring session on Alcatraz Island.

While CPI teams are usually inclusive of military veterans, university students, and local high school graduates, this special session is dedicated to the growth of the CPI program's focus on providing veterans with a once-in-a-lifetime training, education, and personal growth experience. The Institute's mission, the NPS Marin Headlands housing location, and the Alcatraz worksite provide an environment well suited to veteran acclimatization to civilian life and the concrete/construction industry workforce. Their 12 weeks working full-time on the Island, where they will learn from CPI staff, academic experts, the National Park Service, and leading industry experts, will result in the preservation of an important historic landmark structure while providing the foundation, skills, and connections for alumni to move directly into jobs in the skilled construction trades or application to college programs, such as Concrete Industry Management*, leading to management careers in concrete and construction-related fields. Participants also participate in

field validation research that furthers the preservation and construction industries as well as youth mentoring activities within the Park. Veteran participants for this special session receive a \$3000 cost of living stipend from CPI's National Park Service partnership funds and have their program fees covered by industry sponsorships and partnership funds from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

The project for this session in the main prison cell house - which was the largest reinforced concrete building in the world when it was built 1909-12 by the US Army - is especially exciting for the Institute and their NPS and GGNPC partners. Preservation of this structure together with the other extensive historic concrete structures and features throughout the Island are of great concern not only due to the Island's infamous 28-year federal penitentiary legacy, but also because of its much longer history as a strategic military fort dating from the mid-1800's. As a National Historic Landmark within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Alcatraz is one of the most visited National Park sites in the country with over 5000 visitors each day. Early work by CPI staff and student teams in 2010 revealed just how rich and interesting the concrete history of Alcatraz is when, in the course of demolition undertaken in preparation for repairs of the prison Recreation Yard slab, they uncovered buried historic military batteries partially constructed of what may be some of the oldest concrete on the west coast.

CPI's website, cpi-foundation.org, and the Overview Video (link on the homepage), where past participants, staff, NPS, and industry executives tell CPI's story, provide more information about

the program. As the CPI program expands within the GGNRA and looks to the potential beyond for extending the program to other National Park sites, CPI welcomes new partners and sponsors to support talent development for the industry and preservation of the world's concrete cultural heritage.

Beyond this special spring veteran session, CPI welcomes veterans, university students, and local high school graduates, none of whom need have any prior experience, to apply for the summer 2015, fall 2015, and future sessions. Applications, dates, and instructions can be found on the CPI website. The Institute receives numerous applicants for the summer session so please consider applying for spring or fall sessions for more likely admission.

* See concretedegree.com for more information about the Bachelor of Science degree program in Concrete Industry Management offered at four universities across the United States.

CPI partners with the US National Park Service to provide education, hands-on training, and unique life experiences for post-9/11 military veterans and college students who learn while preserving important landmark structures. We contribute to the long-term durability of the built environment through preservation activity, industry research, and alumni deployment across the country into a variety of university programs and areas of industry.