

2023 APA SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION 1: Mistakes Will Be Made

Presenters: Jesse Thompson - Northern Design

Even the best quality control program can't eliminate mistakes. People are human. Mistakes will happen. This session will focus on the most common problems in the precast manufacturing process and the procedures and action steps that can aid in eliminating and/or minimizing the impact of production related errors.

SESSION II: Production Process Improvement - Identifying Problems and Solutions

Presenter: Jay Newton - Simem

This session on problem solving will provide techniques and strategies for efficiently identifying issues that may need to be addressed in your manufacturing process such as increasing efficiency, eliminating bottlenecks, and reducing errors, as well as tools that will help identify the most appropriate remedies.

SESSION III: PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS FROM AN OUTSIDERS PERSPECTIVE

Presenter: Stephen McRae, P.E. - Miller Mize Precast

During this session lifelong structural engineer Stephen McRae will discuss his transition from running and owning a successful precast specialty engineering firm to acquiring and operating a sizeable precast facility in west-central Georgia. Having spent his entire career in precast and pre-stressed concrete design and detailing he will discuss his preconceived notions of precast operations, the realities of the precast production process and the improvements that he and his team have implemented (and those that are underway) since he took the helm at Miller Mize Precast in 2021.

SESSION IV: Improving Floor Production with Automation

Presenter: Jay Newton - Simem

Is increased automation a viable solution for enhancing efficiency in your plant? This session will include an overview of the "how and why" of automation; address the key questions one should ask to determine if increased automation will help meet their plant's objectives; discussion of automation ROI; and considerations that may need to be addressed if and when upgrading.

SESSION V: Increasing Accountability and Putting a Price Tag on Mistakes

Presenter: Tim Michael - Advanced Architectural Stone

There are both direct and indirect costs to production errors and while indirect costs can be subjective and difficult to calculate, direct costs can be calculated and used to increase accountability within departments and across the entire organization. In this session several producers will share their process for calculating the cost of errors and how they utilize that data to enhance accountability and performance.

SESSION VI: Round Table Discussion

Moderator: Nick Carosi

Round table discussions are open to most any topic producers wish to discuss. This session will begin with a focus on the ways plants can improve the production process through their team members with increased training, improved communications, etc., and then will be open for other topics.