



TROWEL TALKS



Special thanks to the Eastland-Fairfield Career Center for providing the space!

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REGISTRATION



PARKING



DR. KEN HOVER
"THE DOCTOR OF CONCRETE"



DAN BAKER
BAKER CONSTRUCTION



STEVE FITTERER
THOMPSON CONCRETE

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dan Baker - Founder, Baker Construction
Presentation: Building the Baker Way

How Baker Construction Thrives Because of People, Honor & Grit

Dan Baker and his brothers didn't set out to build a \$2-billion company - they set out to build things the right way. What started as a small residential concrete business, operating out of the back of a pickup truck, has grown into the nation's leading commercial concrete contractor, guided by a clear and unwavering philosophy known as *The Baker Way*.

In this talk, Dan reflects on the role of People, Honor, and Grit have played in shaping Baker Construction's culture, decisions, and success and how staying grounded in those values continues to define what it means to build better structures and better lives.

Ken Hover, P.E., Ph.D. - Emeritus Professor of Civil & Environmental
Presentation: Engineering at Cornell University
Concrete From the Inside Out

Dr. Hover will explain in a fun, interactive way the many properties and phases of concrete from start to finish. Many of us experience concrete from the outside: we hear the whine and whistle of the ready-mix trucks as it pulls onto the job site; we hear the engine rev-up before discharging (and while adding water). The concrete flows down the chute (or not) and then we lift it, drop it, pump it, squeeze it, and otherwise coax this saturated-soil-like mass into its final position. Our efforts to consolidate, strike-off, float, and trowel the surface must be synchronized with the rates of initial and final setting, and we apply curing and protection (or not) as demanded by project specifications and the weather. Concrete gains strength at a highly variable rate, always shrinks, and often cracks. And sooner or later the owner pays the retainer (or not). This seminar will explain in a refreshingly non-nerdish way how what we routinely see and do is driven by what is happening at the surface and deep down inside that freshly cast concrete.

Steve Fitterer, Chief of Operations, Thompson Concrete
Presentation: Concrete is our Mission - Giving is our Legacy

Thompson Concrete - an employee-owned company - is more than just a concrete contractor. Steve will share project profiles that have changed lives around the world through unique concrete builds - from a 54 foot concrete cross to shells used in a concrete design to mixing concrete on the beach.

Trowel Talks is a unique opportunity for building trades students, general contractors, engineers and concrete industry professionals to gain insight into important topics and emerging innovations shaping the concrete industry today. This inspirational and educational event is led by highly respected individuals in the concrete industry.

\$ FREE CONTRACTOR EVENT

MARCH 26, 2026

EASTLAND-FAIRFIELD CAREER CENTER
3985 COONPATH RD. NW, CARROLL, OH 43211

7:30 AM - 12 PM

7:30 AM REGISTRATION 8AM - 12 PM PROGRAM

FREE NETWORKING LUNCH AT CONCLUSION
ON SEMINAR PROVIDED BY CHRIS CAKES

IN ADDITION, EDUCATORS AT THE EASTLAND-FAIRFIELD CAREER CENTER WILL SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THE BUILDING TRADES PROGRAM AND HOW TO BEST CONNECT STUDENTS TO OUR INDUSTRY.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING DONATED COMPANY SWAG FOR STUDENT ONLY RAFFLE

Thompson Concrete presents a look at their humanitarian work, including the design and construction of a 54-foot concrete cross, and how purpose-driven projects can make a lasting difference.

REMINDER

NAME AND BIRTHDATE IS REQUIRED DURING REGISTRATION ACCORDING TO THE SCHOOL'S VISITOR POLICY. ANYONE WITH A PAST FELONY IS DENIED ACCESS TO SCHOOL. (NO PERSONS WITH PRIOR FELONY WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER). A DRIVER'S LICENSE COULD BE REQUIRED IN PERSON.

For More Info: Contact Lisa Weaver-Moon ☎ (614) 902-2955 ✉ lisa@ohioconcrete.org

THIS EVENT SELLS OUT ...DON'T DELAY. DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026



MEET THE SPEAKERS

DAN BAKER

BAKER CONSTRUCTION

Founder: Baker Construction

Growing up in a large family of modest means in Oxford, Ohio, Dan worked hard to help support his family. At 15, Dan started working after school and during summers as a laborer for his grandfather, Elmer Baker, in residential masonry. He continued working as a concrete finisher to fund his college education at Miami University (Ohio). At the age of 20, when faced with a cut in wages that he and his brothers could ill-afford, he took a major risk and went into business for himself, convincing his brothers to join him. In the early days, Dan worked in every imaginable facet of the concrete business, all while juggling his college classes. During most of the day, he worked "in the trenches," placing and finishing concrete alongside his brothers and co-workers. Dan spent the remainder of his time building relationships with contractors, personally recruiting all new hires, scheduling the next day's work and crews, estimating new work, and managing the finances. While Dan was still earning his Miami University degree, his first company, Baker Concrete Construction, earned a reputation for hard work, customer satisfaction, quality and the ability to meet schedule - allowing initial expansion into the light commercial/light industrial market in the Dayton/Cincinnati area and future growth in project size and scope. Dan's commitment to the construction industry is evident by his involvement throughout the years, participating in countless organizations - both in membership and leadership roles. He has served on the boards of Allied Construction Industries (ACI); American Concrete Institute (ACI); American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC); Construction Business Review (CBR), and Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT). Dan still takes time to keep up with old friends, spends quality time with family and enjoy his favorite pastime: hunting.

DR. KEN HOVER

"THE DOCTOR OF CONCRETE"

Ken Hover, P.E., Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Cornell University, Ken was a Captain in the U.S. Army Combat Engineers, Project Engineer and Project Manager for Dugan and Meyers Construction Co. in Cincinnati, and became partner and manager of THP Structural Engineers, designing new structures and repairing deteriorated buildings and industrial facilities. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from University of Cincinnati, and the Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from Cornell, funded by the Exxon Fellowship designed to bring experienced professionals to engineering faculty at the U.S. universities. At Cornell, Ken taught reinforced and prestressed concrete design, concrete materials, and construction management. With a P.E. in Ohio and New York, he is currently one of the co-leaders of the team investigating the partial collapse of the condominium in Surfside, Florida, working for the U.S. Federal government. His seminars have been on the World of Concrete program for 32 years, and he has been named one of the 10 most influential people in the U.S. concrete industry.

STEVE FITTERER

THOMPSON CONCRETE

Chief Operations Officer for Thompson Concrete

Steve has more than 40 years of experience in the concrete construction industry. He began his career while attending Ohio University, starting in residential concrete for more than a decade before transitioning into commercial and industrial construction, building a foundation rooted in execution and accountability. Steve has played a key role in growing Thompson Concrete into a multi-company organization of over 500 employees operating across multiple states. He provides executive-level oversight of core operations and serves on the Thompson Concrete Board of Directors, bringing deep expertise in production planning, crew scheduling, risk management and field leadership. He also serves on the American Concrete Institute (ACI) Board of Directors and is a Certified ACI Concrete Finisher, reflecting his commitment to technical excellence and industry advancement. In addition, Steve serves on the Vineyard Community Church Board of Directors. Steve is known for his ability to connect strategy with jobsite execution and for developing leaders within the construction trades. Outside of work, he is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.