





## WHAT ROLE HAS COLLABORATION PLAYED IN YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY?

Collaboration has been essential to my academic success. I'm very fortunate to have found collaborators who challenge me, open my eyes to new approaches, and bring unique perspectives to our collective work. Additionally, the friendships we've built make the work even more enjoyable and strengthen my motivation.

Dr. Lesley Sneed is a Professor in the Department of Civil, Materials Environmental Engineering and Director of the High Bay Structures Laboratory at the University of Illinois Chicago. She received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue (2007). Her research focuses on the behavior, condition assessment, and repair of concrete infrastructure, and she has co-authored more than 100 peerreviewed publications in these areas. Dr. Sneed is a registered professional engineer, a registered structural engineer, and has over seven years of industry experience. She is the recipient of many awards for her scholarship, teaching, and service, and she is a fellow of the American Concrete Institute.

## HOW DID YOUR TIME AT PURDUE SHAPE WHO YOU ARE?

My time at Purdue has truly shaped my academic career. My mentors, including faculty, staff, and colleagues, provided a supportive environment and encouraging community that empowered me to become more confident and independent. I've tried to emulate their examples in my own teaching, research, and mentoring so that I can help translate this experience to others.