AIA NEW YORK STATE – ARCHITECTS ADVOCACY DAY

2018 ADVOCACY DAY | DANIEL KEEFE, AIA

On Tuesday, May 1st, AIA New York State conducted the annual Architects Advocacy Day in Albany at the State Capital Legislative office building. After months of statewide preparation for the day’s coordinated legislative program, including an informative pre-lobby day webinar, dozens of Architects traveled to Albany to attend scheduled meeting with elected officials. Participants from AIA Buffalo/WNY included Robert E. Stark, AIA, Immediate Past NYS President, Paul J. McDonnell, AIA, NYS Vice President of Public Advocacy, Kelly Hayes McAlonie, Regional Representative, and Daniel J. Keefe, AIA, Director of the WNY Government Affairs Committee.

The 2018 agenda included AIA positions on nine (9) bills, five (5) that we support and four (4) that we oppose. A concerted effort was made this year to simplify our directive, and to convey a positive message, therefore conversations were focused on three (3) support initiatives. A primary focus of support conversations with officials was in regards to design liability reform for Architects, which would introduce a statute of repose limiting the period of liability, a reasonable reduction from the current indefinite and perpetual state. Currently, New York and Vermont are the only two states remaining without a statute of repose law in place. Second was indemnification reform, where we talked about the expanding presence of uninsurable contract clauses which require consultants to indemnify and defend public clients for actions outside professional’s own negligence. The third topic was Due Process for Design Professionals, where we encourage procedural rights afforded to Architects under Education Law to stay at the state level, rather than become subject to municipal overreach. The focus was to drive sponsorship, and ask our elected representatives to sign onto these bills if they haven’t already.

The WNY contingent attended scheduled meetings with State Senators Chris Jacobs, Tim Kennedy, and Robert Ortt. We also visited with Assemblymember Robin Schimminger, an aide for Assemblymember Sean Ryan, and we even were able to track down new Assemblymember Erik Bohan on his first day in office. A good amount of thoughtful conversation took place, and all representatives served as receptive audience to the concerns of NYS architects. Follow up thank you letters were sent, and meetings are being planned on the local level, where concerted advocacy efforts will continue.

The continued civic engagement of architects is essential not only to the architectural profession, but to the health, safety and welfare of the communities in which we live and work. All AIA members are encouraged to get involved.

For more information visit www.aianys.org/government-affairs
NCARB Reports Number of Architects Up 10% Compared to a Decade Ago
June 18, 2018 | Collin Abdallah (via ArchDaily)

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has recently released new data surveying the number of licensed architects in the United States. Conducted annually by NCARB, the 2017 Survey of Architectural Registration Boards provides exclusive insight into data from the architectural licensing boards of the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. At first glance, the numbers reflect promising growth for the architecture profession. The number of architects licensed in the U.S. rose to 113,554, according to the survey, which is a 3% increase from 2016 and a 10% increase from the numbers reported a decade ago.

Even more impressive, when you compare the increase in registered architects to the U.S. population, the number of architects licensed has risen over 10% since 2008; while the total U.S. population has risen 8%, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. That equates to roughly 1 architect for every 2,900 people in the country. To put this into perspective, a medium-sized architecture firm of 50 people would theoretically have the potential to directly impact 145,000 people in the U.S.

Based on these statistics, one might assume that more architects naturally means more architecture, thus more influence from the profession in general. But that might not be the case. Read on for more data from NCARB's report and what it could mean for the profession as a whole.

Over the past few years, NCARB has been making an obvious effort to streamline the path to licensure and remove unnecessary barriers. NCARB CEO Michael J. Armstrong believes the numbers in the recent report reflect their efforts. With over 5,200 candidates completing the core education, experience and examination requirements for licensure, this record high might suggest a promising future for the generations to come.

While the numbers indicate an upward trajectory for the profession overall, it’s important to step back and view this assumption from an economic perspective. With a higher supply of architects in the U.S., will this in turn mean less work for architects across the board? Economically speaking, a greater supply generally leads to a lesser demand.

In order to combat this supply and demand, it is important for the architectural profession to begin exploring more innovative ways to practice. The traditional client relationship is evolving in the age of digital media, and perhaps it is time to take advantage of this evolution through investing in new ways to find and secure work. It is an exciting time to be in any creative industry, this report proves that. Find a way to set yourself apart from the crowd--you might even end up making an impact you may not have anticipated was possible.

To learn more about NCARB’s data and the Survey of Architectural Registration Boards, visit the website here.

News via: NCARB


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Total Architects: 113,554  Total Reciprocal Registrations: 115,348  Total Registrations: 238,902

* Counts from 2015 Survey.
2018 AIA BUFFALO/WNY SCHOLARSHIP

AWARD RECIPIENTS | YADIRA D. DESANTIS, ASSOCIATE AIA

The American Institute of Architects Buffalo/WNY chapter and Buffalo Architecture Foundation are proud to announce the 2018 scholarship award winners. The scholarship supports local architecture students from within the chapter region as they embark on the path to licensure through the pursuit of a professional architecture degree.

The 2018 AIA Buffalo/WNY Scholarship is funded by the collection of chapter Allied Membership dues, programming fees from such events as the annual Architecture Awards and the Architecture 5K Run, as well as the AIA Component Scholarship Award matching grant program from AIA National. The scholarship program is open to students who have completed at least one year of coursework in a NAAB accredited or candidacy program and are enrolled in an eligible school.

This year’s winners demonstrated a strong commitment and passion for architecture, with their notable academic achievements and involvement in the local community. The scholarship committee selected two recipients pursuing architecture studies in the 2018/2019 academic year. Award winners are:

**Michael Gac** is a graduate of Depew High School, currently residing in the city of Buffalo. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Architecture at the University at Buffalo. He is also a graduate teaching assistant and assistant editor for Intersight, the school’s annual student publication of work. Michael has participated in the U.S. Department of Energy’s International Solar Decathlon, as well as the Architecture + Education program, offered to Buffalo Public Schools students through the Buffalo Architecture Foundation.

**Elias Kotzambasis**, a Clarence, New York native is pursuing a Masters of Architecture degree at the University at Buffalo. He has taught Freshman Design Studio as a graduate teaching assistant at UB and has worked for Architectural practice Anthony James Architects. Elias is also a member of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) chapter at UB, on which he most recently served as Vice President.

In addition to the recipients of the AIA Buffalo/WNY Scholarship, we are proud to partner with the UB School of Architecture + Planning in recognizing **Natalie Harack** and **Rania Mousa**, both seniors in the architecture program as the recipients of the AIA/UB Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to department selected students who have demonstrated outstanding architectural and academic talent and comes with a monetary prize. Congratulations to all!

If you would like to support the chapter scholarship programs please contact Yadira DeSantis at info@AIABuffaloWNY.org for additional information. Please visit http://www.aiabuffalowny.org/scholarship for more details and future scholarship opportunities.
Washington, DC — As part of its continued effort to help candidates prepare for the architectural licensing exam, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has launched a new Approved Test Prep Provider Program. Through this initiative, companies that create study materials for the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) 5.0 can submit them to NCARB for review and approval.

In April 2018, Black Spectacles® became the first NCARB-approved provider of study materials for two divisions of ARE 5.0: Project Planning & Design and Project Development & Documentation. This designation confirms Black Spectacles’ content appropriately covers the key elements of each division.

“Our goal is to help candidates better navigate the path to licensure,” said NCARB CEO Michael Armstrong. “By appropriately working with test prep providers, we can give candidates confidence that the materials they’re using (Continued on page 5)

AIA Buffalo/WNY is pleased to acknowledge the partners who are participating in our Allied Members program. With the financial assistance of these companies and individuals, we are better positioned to administer the range of benefits that we strive to provide to our membership.

The resources provided by these partners are used to fund chapter scholarship and special event programming. The chapter would like to extend our gratitude to the following:

BAER & ASSOCIATES, LLC
CHARLIE LONG (KELLEY BROS)
CONSTRUCTION EXCHANGE OF BUFFALO & WNY, INC.
JIM CAVANAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY
M/E ENGINEERING, P.C.
ONE BATCH DESIGN
PARKTECTS, INC.
PELLA WINDOWS – BUFFALO/WNY
PRENTICE OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS
RIGIDIZED METALS
RISE SALES CO.
RP OAK HILL BUILDING COMPANY INC.
SHERWIN WILLIAMS
SJB / EMPIRE GEO SERVICES
SUGARMAN LAW
TREMCO ROOFING
UNILOCK INC., BUFFALO

We continue to search for the first architectural firm to sign on to the Allied Membership Program, with special benefits provided to those firms that choose to join. For further information, and to download the application and informational PDF, please visit our website.
In addition to ensuring ARE candidates have access to quality study materials, NCARB’s Approved Test Prep Provider Program also benefits companies: approved providers will receive detailed feedback on submitted resources and be recognized on NCARB’s website.

Developed by NCARB, the ARE assesses the knowledge and skills of all candidates seeking a license to practice architecture in the United States. NCARB periodically updates the exam to ensure it continues to reflect the demands of professional practice. The newest version of the exam, ARE 5.0, launched on November 1, 2016. It incorporates modern testing technologies and features six divisions that align with current practice and the progression of an architecture project.

“NCARB and Black Spectacles are both committed to getting candidates licensed, so we’re excited to be their first approved test prep provider,” said Marc Teer, Founder and CEO of Black Spectacles. “Licensure candidates can now feel even more confident that our content is delivering the information they’ll need to successfully take the ARE.”

To be considered for NCARB’s Approved Test Prep Provider Program, companies must submit an application for a specific ARE 5.0 division, along with copies of the study materials. Each submission is reviewed by an NCARB committee of volunteer architects, who evaluate whether or not the materials meet NCARB’s criteria in each area. If approved, these materials can use NCARB’s Test Prep Provider logo to designate their status.

If you would like to apply for the Test Prep Provider Program, please contact TestPrepProvider@ncarb.org. For more information about ARE 5.0 visit www.ncarb.org/ARE5.
While equity and diversity in the profession have been improving in recent years, new data shows that attrition along the path to licensure remains much higher for non-white individuals.

Washington, DC—Diversity among licensure candidates and new architects continues to improve, according to the 2018 edition of NCARB by the Numbers. However, new analysis from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) also indicates that while non-white individuals now make up a larger percent of the profession, they also stop pursuing licensure at higher rates. Comparatively, attrition rates for men and women have evened out as the proportion of women in the profession has increased.

“NCARB has spent the past several years updating and aligning our programs to remove unnecessary burdens while maintaining the rigor needed to protect the public,” said NCARB CEO Michael Armstrong. “A key area for us to address is identifying how pinch points along the path to licensure may vary for candidates from different backgrounds.”

### Racial and Ethnic Diversity

In 2017, racial and ethnic diversity continued to improve along early career stages.

Forty-five percent of new Architectural Experience Program® (AXP™) participants and 33 percent of new exam candidates identified as non-white, a three percent increase from 2016 for both groups. Individuals completing the AXP saw an even larger jump: 30 percent identified as non-white, a 5 percentage point increase.

For comparison, 34 percent of the U.S. population identifies as either non-white or Hispanic, according to 2015 statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Although racial and ethnic diversity has been gradually improving in the profession, candidates who identify as non-white or Hispanic remain less likely to complete the path to licensure than candidates who identify as white.

Of non-white candidates who started their NCARB Record in 2008, 33 percent had completed the core requirements for licensure by 2017—15 percentage points less than their white counterparts. In addition, 34 percent of non-white and 27 percent of white candidates have stopped pursuing licensure. This trend continues in more recent years, with non-white candidates typically 25 percent more likely to fall off the path to licensure than their white peers.

(Continued on page 7)
Women and Men Reach Equal Rates of Attrition

Gender equity remained largely unchanged over the course of 2017, with minimal increases and decreases at various career stages.

In 2017, women accounted for 46 percent of new AXP participants, 42 percent of new Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) candidates, and 35 percent of candidates who’ve completed the core requirements for licensure. By comparison, women made up 47, 42, and 36 percent, respectively, of these groups in 2016.

And while the percentage of new Certificate holders who are women dipped to 32 percent in 2017, the percentage of all Certificate holders who are women rose to 20 percent. This is the third year of successive increase—signaling that while women remain underrepresented in the industry, gender equity is gradually improving.

Historic differences in attrition between genders have disappeared since 2012. Of those who started their NCARB Record in 2008, 32 percent of women and 27 percent of men have fallen off the path to licensure—a 5 percent gap.

The data reveals a more positive trend for women who began the path to licensure more recently. While women who started their Record in 2014 or 2016 are still less likely to have completed the path to licensure than their male peers, they are also less likely to have stopped pursuing licensure, which is a reversal from 2008 and 2010 candidates.

The 2018 edition of NCARB by the Numbers, available in July, provides exclusive insight into the number of U.S. architects, the pool of candidates working toward licensure, and diversity in the profession. To learn more about NCARB’s data, visit www.ncarb.org.