

**Report of NCARB to the International Presidents Forum
May 2007**

**Presented by Douglas K. Engebretson, FAIA, First Vice President/
President-Elect**

On behalf of President Robert E. Luke, AIA, and our Board of Directors, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the International Presidents Forum with an update on the activities of NCARB this fiscal year. We also thank the AIA for giving all of us the opportunity to meet and share our thoughts.

This fiscal year, ending 30 June 2007, we had over 300 volunteers providing thoughtful consideration on important issues. They freely give of their time and expertise to make the future brighter for students, interns, architects and the public we strive to protect. In addition, our Executive Vice President Lenore M. Lucey, FAIA recently restructured the Council office to better serve our various constituencies. The addition of two Vice Presidents will give us added depth to focus on our important programs and core processing areas. Significant initiatives this year included:

Intern Development Program

This year we have put more sub-committees, volunteers and funding into the IDP program in order to increase its depth and breadth. We recognize that the IDP program is essential to the growth of our Emerging Professionals.

In order to strengthen the IDP, we are bringing forward a position paper on the timely reporting of internship experience. The paper forwards the concept of requiring reporting of IDP experience within 6-months of its occurrence in order to receive credit. We anticipate lively discussion of the topic before our member boards are expected to vote on an implementing resolution in June 2008.

Architect Registration Examination

In June 2006, we took the ARE/IDP sequencing issue to the membership to allow early access to the ARE under certain conditions. Last August we asked the ARE and IDP committees and the Impediments Task Force to study and bring recommendations back to the BOD. The recommendations have been brought forward and will be voted on by our member board members this coming June. The proposed resolution provides for changes to the Handbook for Interns and Architects and the Model Law to accept beginning the ARE early pursuant to the eligibility requirements in the candidate's jurisdiction and the establishment of a Council record. It also provides that two divisions of the ARE may only be taken after completion of IDP. (Building Design & Construction and Construction Documents & Services)

The ARE continues to evolve with ARE 3.1 implemented February 2006. This provided for the combination of some of the Site Vignettes, new practice programs, and new *ARE Guidelines*. We continue to make modifications to the ARE as we head to version 4.0 –

which will debut July 2008, with a year overlap between the two exams to ease the transition for candidates.

Even though we find there are few incidents of cheating on the ARE, NCARB has taken the position of zero tolerance on cheating and/or violating the confidentiality of the ARE material. We have adopted policies and procedures to look for and to deal with those instances. We are placing reminders on publications that *“Cheating on IDP or the ARE is unethical and illegal and will be dealt with appropriately.”*

Architecture Practice Analysis Study

This month architects from around the United States and Canada were invited to participate in an on-line update of NCARB’s Architecture Practice Analysis Study. We greatly appreciate the support of the AIA which allowed us to send invitations to its licensed architect members. The most recent Practice Analysis, which is a comprehensive study of a profession, took place in 1999-2000. That iteration spurred the ongoing evolution of the Architect Registration Examination.

Prometric, NCARB’s test development and psychometric consultant for the ARE, will administer the online survey that explores the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) necessary for the independent practice of architecture. Following survey data collection, the task force will review and evaluate the findings for relevance to the ARE Specifications and the Intern Development Program’s Training Areas and Core Competencies. We anticipate the results of this update will be available by early 2008.

NCARB Prize Grants

In early December 2006, the Council awarded inaugural NCARB Prize Grants to the University of Kansas Center for Research and to North Dakota State University. The KU Center for Research received \$6,000 for its efforts to create an educational model that immerses students in sustainability. Building information modeling (BIM) is the focus of the North Dakota State University project, which received a \$4,000 grant. In its first year, the Prize Grant initiative attracted 16 entries from accredited programs of architecture. Grants are awarded for innovative and risk-taking projects that support the integration of practice and education.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Task Force was established this year to address what may be the most important issue facing Architects as we shape the world in which we live. The task force was charged to explore Sustainability as it relates to the regulation of the Practice of Architecture. The mission is to provide a defensible base that will allow the Council to be proactive and take a leadership role in this area of protecting the Health, Safety and Welfare.

Disaster Response

The Disaster Response Task Force was charged to research issues and prepare guidelines relevant to regulations for use after major disasters that could be used by Registration Boards, Electrical Officials, Government Agencies and Architectural Responders. This

year the committee is focusing on efforts to work with Federal Agencies such as FEMA. We anticipate their final report this spring.

Communications

Effective, clear and transparent communications are the key to the success of any organization. We are studying all of our communication means and systems with the goal of developing a plan delineating our messages and how to effectively deliver them.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was the result of over one year of intense and interactive conversations, debates and decisions by the Board. The plan in its present state is conceived as a continuous process and a “living document.” It will be revisited and refined on a regular basis. There are eleven key elements of the plan, including: Governance, Communication, Service, the IDP, the ARE, and Technology.

Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement

The Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States was signed in Oaxaca, Mexico in October 2005 was ratified by NCARB in June 2006. This agreement will facilitate the mobility of architects among the three countries. Architects who meet their countries’ requirements, who have practiced for ten years in comprehensive practice and meet some additional requirements, are eligible to submit their qualifications for review to practice in another country. Implementation details are being finalized by all three countries this month.

Architects Council of Europe (ACE)

The Mutual Recognition Agreement with ACE is moving forward following the signing of the agreement in November 2005 in Luxembourg. The Council ratified the MRA at the NCARB 2006 Annual Meeting and Conference, with the understanding that the negotiation of the implementation details will be forthcoming.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

The APEC Architect Project last met in May 2006 in Mexico City to negotiate implementation details. The consensus form of governance of the APEC Architect Project makes it difficult to make progress on some issues including the selection and funding for the Secretariat. The US delegation took the lead to head a Committee to study the issues and funding options, and the group will reconvene in Canada in August 2008.

Australian Mutual Recognition Agreement

The US-Australia Mutual Recognition Agreement was ratified by NCARB in June 2006. Following additional minor editing, the document will be ratified by the AACA in September 2007. We anticipate beginning implementation discussions shortly thereafter.

India Council of Architecture

In early spring 2007 the COA in India requested that NCARB enter into discussions leading towards mutual recognition. In April the NCARB Board of Directors voted to

enter into such discussions pursuant to implementation guidelines previously set out. During the next year each organization will review the other's education, experience, and examination criteria for compatibility. Following that, full discussions will begin, possibly during the UIA Triennial in Torino in July 2008.

On the behalf of the NCARB Council Board of Directors and our 54 Member Boards we thank you for your support and positive attitude as we pursue performing our mission to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.