

The 2005 Member Board Chairs Conference:

Every three years, the chairs of NCARB's 55 member boards are invited to take part in an important conference where they provide feedback about future Council initiatives. At the 2005 Member Board Chairs Conference, attendees were charged with an even more significant task: to discuss, evaluate, and prioritize newly drafted Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

Member board chairs, representing 49 of the 55 NCARB jurisdictions, met in Kansas City, MO, in late September 2005 for their triennial gathering. They were joined by James P. Cramer, president of the Greenway Group, which has provided consulting services to NCARB throughout the drafting of the new Strategic Plan; NCARB officers and regional directors, including President H. Carleton Godsey; and NCARB senior staff. During the two-day conference, the chairs participated in intensive breakout sessions where they debated the merits of Strategic Plan goals and objectives. They then reconvened and shared the ideas and proposals generated during their small group discussions.

A LIST OF VITAL ISSUES

While each group developed its own list of priorities, member board chairs reached consensus about a core group of vital issues that primarily correspond to Strategic Plan goals and objectives. They are, in order of precedent,

- the sequencing of the Intern Development Program (IDP) and the Architect Registration Examination (ARE);
- identifying sustainability as a health, safety, and welfare issue;
- standardizing continuing education requirements;
- the advent of and response to unlicensed practice and overlapping professions;

- achieving reciprocity among all NCARB jurisdictions;
- the quality, structure, and mentoring aspect of IDP; and
- sustaining and strengthening communication efforts with NCARB's core constituencies.

Timing of IDP/ARE Heads Priorities

NCARB will expand rapport and communication with other professional organizations to encourage that emerging professionals be recognized and respected for their knowledge and abilities.

While not a new issue, the current sequencing of IDP and the ARE—emerging profession-

MBCs Focus on Strategic Plan

als must complete IDP before taking the nine ARE divisions in a majority of NCARB jurisdictions—is causing much discussion throughout the architecture profession. Member board chairs pressed NCARB to draft a position statement about this issue as soon as possible given its “hot-button” status. Such a move not only would provide guidance to member boards, it also could positively affect related issues such as reciprocity impediments, the quality of the internship experience, and collaboration with the collateral organizations (the AIA, ACSA, AIAS, and NAAB). In response to the chairs’ call for action, NCARB President Godsey explained that he would communicate directly with member board members and member board executives about the IDP/ARE timing issue. Godsey also noted that he would ask the IPD/ARE Task Force to expedite its work on the internship/examination sequence.

Sustainability as an HSW Issue


NCARB will increase its impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the built environment by anticipating trends and seeking collaborations within our industry.

According to Jim Cramer and the Greenway Group, a high demand for green and sustainable design is one of the 15 most important trends facing architects. Member board chairs resoundingly agreed and supported the inclusion of sustainability as a health, safety, and welfare issue. Several groups noted that sustainable design could be more fully addressed in relevant ARE divisions, in IDP Training Areas, in the NCARB Education Standard, and in the Council’s monograph series.

Standardizing CE Requirements

NCARB will evaluate its role in Continuing Professional Development.

The advent of continuing education (CE) requirements is an annual or biannual reality for architects. For those who are registered in more than one jurisdiction, keeping track of varying state-level CE requirements—number of units needed, type of coursework, pre-approved providers—can be an unwelcome frustration. Member board chairs called for the standardization of such requirements. One suggestion they offered was linking continuing education to the renewal of NCARB certification. From their perspective such a move would streamline the often complicated record-keeping process of meeting CE requirements state by state. Chairs also noted that the quality of CE providers needs to be addressed. They identified increased collaboration with the AIA as one means to maintain rigorous CE resources.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM 49 OF THE 55 NCARB JURISDICTIONS POSE WITH MEMBERS OF THE GREENWAY GROUP, NCARB OFFICERS, AND NCARB STAFF AT THE 2005 MEMBER BOARD CHAIRS CONFERENCE.

Responding to Unlicensed Practice and Overlapping Professions

NCARB will increase its impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the built environment by anticipating trends and seeking collaborations within our industry.

The interconnected issues of unlicensed (or incidental) practice and overlapping professions proved to be of great importance to member board chairs. They offered a number of suggestions including the development of a “legislative tool box,” a portable resource aimed at educating state legislators about architecture and its role in the built environment. NCARB also was encouraged to take a more active role in the handling of illegal practice. A breakout session group, led by Stephen L. Parker, chair of the Maryland Board of Architects, listed several ways to counter incidental practice such as the drafting of written guidelines for code officials and the hiring of additional investigators by

state boards. Chairs also enthusiastically supported greater collaboration with the regulatory boards of other design professions in an effort to better define roles and responsibilities.

Reciprocity Among All Jurisdictions

NCARB will develop a plan to achieve universal acceptance of the Certificate as a national credential.

Reciprocity, a familiar issue in the world of architectural regulation, drew continued interest from the member board chairs, who supported NCARB’s efforts to establish Council certification as a national credential. A push for full reciprocity among state boards also would help unravel the continuing education conundrum, according to the chairs. And while the concept of a “national license” may prove to be a challenging goal, chairs agreed that it is worth pursuing.

Validating the Intern Development Program

NCARB will expand rapport and communication with other professional organizations to encourage that emerging professionals be recognized and respected for their knowledge and abilities.

Member board chairs fully supported efforts to recognize the integral contributions—both current and future—of emerging professionals. And while the NCARB Strategic Plan calls for an increase in “the number of students and graduates involved in IDP by 10 percent per year over the next three years,” several chairs supported an even more definitive goal: maintaining and strengthening the quality, structure, and mentoring component of IDP. A breakout session group, led by Mark Freeman, chair of the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners, suggested that improving IDP’s mentoring component could be a means to draw more students of architecture into the profession.



**“Can You Hear Me Now?”:
Communications and Core Constituencies**

NCARB will more effectively explain its mission and programs to its constituents and the public.

As one breakout session group noted, “Communication is fundamental to the solution of all issues.” Led by Teri A. Petrzalek, chair of the Iowa Architectural Examining Board, this group also identified a need for national standards and definitions based on NCARB Model Law. Other groups identified similar communication-based goals and encouraged NCARB to better explain its resources and services—both to core constituents and the public. Chairs also advised the Council to develop an outreach program focusing on the process and value of registration and certification.

**Chairs Support NCARB Stance on
Disaster Response**

With the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita fresh on their minds, the chairs encouraged NCARB leaders to take a stance on “Good Samaritan” laws and disaster response, an objective not found in the Strategic Plan. One group, led by Larry Brandstetter, chair of the Kentucky Board of Architects, submitted the following suggestion: “NCARB should establish policy for practice that addresses relief and reconstruction issues as they relate to disasters and other ‘special’ conditions/situations . . . [and] as they relate to local, state, and national requirements.” NCARB President H. Carleton Godsey agreed to appoint a new task force in order to address this timely issue.

**GENEROUS FEEDBACK CHARACTERIZES
CONFERENCE**

The amount of feedback generated during the two-day conference belied the gathering’s short duration. Member board chairs, representing 49 jurisdictions, did a yeoman’s job of sifting through and then prioritizing Strategic Plan goals and objectives—and submitting a plethora of specific suggestions for implementation.

As NCARB leadership has consistently noted, the Strategic Plan is a “living document” that will continue to “grow and evolve.” With the newly gathered contributions of the member board chairs, the Council Board of Directors will have much to consider as it begins to implement the many worthy goals and objectives of NCARB’s forward-thinking Plan. **DC**