



The NCARB Grant program awards a total of \$10,000 each year to help schools create innovative programs that bring together architectural education and practice.

Awarding Innovation

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards has selected Pratt Institute and the University of New Mexico as recipients of the second annual NCARB Grants. "We are pleased to award each school with \$5,000 seed money to turn their creative proposals into innovative programs that bring together architectural education and practice," said former president of NCARB and chair of the Practice Education Committee, H. Carleton Godsey, FAIA.

The winners of NCARB Grants were announced in early December 2007 after members of NCARB's Practice Education Committee reviewed 16 proposals from 15 different schools. "We received many excellent proposals," said Godsey. "The interaction of non-faculty practicing architects and students was evident in the successful proposals, and most clearly met the goals of the grant program."

PRATT INSTITUTE

Practicing Theories/Theorizing Practices

Pratt Institute proposed a cross-disciplinary program that integrates contemporary discussions in history and theory with architectural projects underway in the profession. With a specific focus on the fourth semester of the Masters in Architecture program, their proposal links the studio course, the Comprehensive Architectural Studio (CAP), with the technical course, Integrated Building Systems (IBS). The "transdisciplinary" effort will make the requirements for each course a shared set of documents, and instructors will be involved in other courses to lecture and conduct desk critiques.

The program will bring professionals into the academic context and take students into practicing firms, both literally and virtually. Using technology to provide a virtual link with actual projects around the world, students will examine and prepare case studies that document the ways in which theory is integrated into practice, design, and construction. By partnering with firms that have a

range of interests, projects, and structures, the course provides an opportunity for students to enter into the professional realm and engage in a practical dialogue on the application of theoretical constructs to real-world projects. It also provides an opportunity for participating firms to gain access to current academic discourses in theory, design, and technology, and a chance to review their work through a theoretical lens.

Catherine Tobin Ingraham and William Mac Donald will direct the program. Ingraham, a full-time faculty member at Pratt and former chair of the Graduate Architecture and Urban Design (GAUD) program, is a theorist and author of seminal publications on theoretical issues in architectural history. Mac Donald is the current chair of GAUD, a practicing architect, and a partner in an award winning, theoretically driven practice based in New York City. Alexandra Barker, AIA, an adjunct assistant professor at Pratt and a practicing architect, will serve as the program's assistant director.

"The primary goal of the course is to provide an educational platform that fosters a 'feed-back' relationship between practicing theoreticians, theorizing practitioners, and creatively/critically positioned students," said Mac Donald. "The methodology used to present these discourses is to provide a mechanism for the importation/exportation of both theory and practice into the realm of the other."

Pratt will use its \$5,000 NCARB Grant to purchase software and T1 lines with increased bandwidth that will allow Pratt to conduct videoconferences with architectural offices around the world. Video cameras and microphones will also be purchased to document sessions for use in future courses.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Bridging the Gap – Educating the Intern

The University of New Mexico's winning proposal addresses the gap between practice and the academy by developing a series of professional-level courses for advanced students, interns, and practicing professionals. The courses will be taught under the auspices of the University of New Mexico School of Architecture & Planning, and will cover topic areas such as:

- Building Codes & Standards – Architectural Impact
- Construction Administration & Processes
- Building and Construction Costs
- Specifications, Product Selection, & System Comparisons
- Contracts, Liability, & Resolving Conflicts of Responsibility
- Bidding & Negotiation Processes
- Professional Written Communications & Proposals
- Materials
- Envelope Systems
- Advanced Construction Documentation & Detailing
- Sustainability & Energy Conscious Design
- Professional Leadership & Ethics

Expert practitioners in the various topics will be recruited from local offices to teach the proposed classes. "Master teachers" from the faculty will mentor these practitioners in their course development and classroom skills. Teaching examples drawn from locally accessible projects will provide a richness and immediacy that is difficult to duplicate in abstract or distant projects.

The project will be lead by Associate Professor Stephen D. Dent, AIA, IES, who has been a member of the New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects since 2001. Dent has taught energy conserving and sustainable design for over 25 years. He is also a partner in Dent & Nordhaus, Architects, LLC, a small firm that specializes in sustainable designs for residential and commercial projects.

"Being selected to win an NCARB Grant is a great honor and a recognition of the need to develop new ways of bridging the gap between the academy and practice for our emerging professionals," said Dent. "The funds from the Grant will provide the financial incentive to put together a series of professional-level courses and workshops at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture & Planning in the IDP topic areas that are considered by interns to be the most difficult in which to gain experience and credits. The courses will be taught by the best local practitioners and will help, in a small way, to transform the training of interns into the education of interns."

The University of New Mexico will use its \$5,000 NCARB Grant to fund efforts to implement the Intern Education Program, such as recruiting qualified educator/practitioners, overseeing course development, and conducting course evaluations. The grant will also help fund a graduate assistant who will administer a survey of interns, assist in advertising and outreach efforts, and help handle the enrollment process. **DC**

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THE NCARB GRANT PROGRAM

The NCARB Grant program was launched in 2006 to complement the NCARB Prize for the Creative Integration of Practice and Education in the Academy. As a separate funding venture, the grant was created to support and encourage concepts that may be more risk-taking than a school can initially afford on its own, and that are not eligible for the NCARB Prize.

Each fall, schools with NAAB-accredited programs and NAAB-accreditation candidate programs are invited to submit proposals—which include an application form, a narrative no longer than five pages, a supporting letter of commitment, an itemized budget, and a letter from the dean authorizing the project—for innovative projects that integrate practice and education. Schools applying for the NCARB Grant are encouraged to:

- Explore different venues or innovative curricular methods/programs to increase the practice/education link or
- Seek support for efforts that, for a variety of reasons, have not materialized into for-credit curricular activities and, therefore, are not eligible for the NCARB Prize program.

Members of the Council's Practice Education Committee review all proposals, and then award up to a total of \$10,000 through one, two, or three grants to proposals that best meet NCARB goal of merging practice and education in a studio or classroom setting. NCARB reserves the right not to make any awards, based on the quality of proposals received.

Written notification of the committee's decisions is announced in early December so that project(s) can start in January with the implementation of the studio/class being offered in the fall semester at the latest.

For more information about the NCARB Grant program, visit the NCARB Prize section of the Council web site (<http://www.ncarb.org/prize/>) where you can download an application and detailed instructions. NCARB Grant submissions for the 2008-2009 academic year are due in the NCARB offices, on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, on Tuesday, October 21, 2008.