



LEFT HEBREW DIXON, PRESIDENT OF CIRCLE D ENTERPRISES, SHOWS STUDENTS HOW TO CONSTRUCT MODELS.

RIGHT RICK GLASSMAN, AIA, OF GERDING COLLABORATIVE, HELPS STUDENTS FROM BENJAMIN E. MAYS HIGH SCHOOL AND LITHONIA HIGH SCHOOL CREATE MODELS FOR THEIR FINAL PROJECT.

The road to becoming a licensed architect is both challenging and rewarding. For those thinking about a career in architecture, the process will be smoother if they understand the steps to reach their goal. Here's what one community-based program does to excite and inform high-school students about architecture.

INSPIRING INNER CITY YOUTH

By Dawn M. Trimble, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP

In 2004, Atlanta-based architect and artist, Oscar L. Harris, FAIA, created the Atlanta Center for Creative Inquiry (ACCI), an after school program in the metro Atlanta area designed to introduce inner-city high school students to the disciplines of design, architecture, and construction. During the six-week program, students learned the basics of design and honed their verbal and presentation skills through active involvement in lectures, one-on-one studio sessions, and field trips.

The program, which is free to students, also brought in licensed architect volunteers to talk about the steps involved in becoming an architect and how it is important to become licensed. They discussed how students will need to obtain a professional degree in architecture from a NAAB-accredited program, establish an NCARB Record to start the Intern Development Program (IDP), and ensure that they work for a licensed architect while participating in the IDP. The volunteers also

encouraged students to sit for and pass the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®); and explained the benefits of obtaining licensure—such as the ability to stamp documents within their firm or start their own businesses.

The theme of the ACCI program in the spring of 2009 was Design and Sustainability. Each Thursday afternoon, 34 students met with local architects, design professionals, and architectural students for two to three hours. The first meeting was a charged and exciting event, as students shared their viewpoints on sustainable issues such as active/passive energy, carbon footprints, and green communities.

This initial excitement set the pace, and the students remained engaged and curious throughout the program. At the end of each weekly meeting, the students were given a design problem as homework. The following week they received feedback on their designs

from practicing architects in local firms and design students at nearby architectural schools. This volunteer mix allowed the students to interact with people at various stages of their career. The students' final project called for them to incorporate everything they learned into the design of a sustainable community center. The high school students also had an opportunity to visit a local construction site and see an actual design studio at Georgia Tech's College of Architecture.

At the end of the program, there was a graduation ceremony at Georgia Tech. ACCI board members, the design professionals involved in the program, and parents joined the celebration as all 34 participants received a certificate of completion. Special awards, scholarships, and internships were also presented to the students who displayed the passion necessary for success in the profession.

OUTREACH: NCARB STYLE

NCARB has developed an outreach program to help aspiring architects and their supervisors navigate the path to licensure and certification. The goal of the program is to provide greater clarity to the process in general and greater transparency of NCARB's role in the process.

In January, Harry M. Falconer Jr., AIA, NCARB, Director, IDP, spoke to AIA San Diego members at the NTD Architecture San Diego office. His presentation covered all aspects of obtaining a license, becoming NCARB certified, and included a spirited Q&A session at the end.

The following day Falconer met with students at the NewSchool for Architecture and Design and at Woodbury University. Lauren Pasion, a third-year undergrad B.Arch candidate and NewSchool's AIAS chapter president feels that "with the continuous evolution of our profession, it is important for students to know what to expect, and are expected of, for licensure. The emerging professionals of today must be well informed of their state's requirements if they are truly committed to becoming a licensed architect." She added that it was great to have an NCARB representative speak to the NewSchool students as "everyone's situation and career path is unique. It was a pleasure to have Harry Falconer available to answer the students' particular questions."

In addition to speaking engagements, NCARB offers a variety of webcasts and podcasts—covering issues such as ARE® Security, the Six-Month Rule, IDP 2.0, and *IDP Supervisor Guidelines*—that can be downloaded from NCARB's web site. You'll also find a wealth of up-to-date information about the NCARB programs and links to many useful documents including the most current versions of the *ARE*, *IDP*, *Education*, and *IDP Supervisor Guidelines*.

NCARB staff members are available to talk—either in person, if schedule permits, or through a live webinar—to groups at schools with NAAB-accredited programs, AIA events, or large firms. If you have a group of students, interns, or supervisors interested in learning more about the IDP, ARE, certification, and NCARB, contact Martin Smith, AIA, Manager, IDP, at msmith@ncarb.org or 202/879-0502. **DC**

Since ACCI was founded five years ago, nearly a fifth of the students who participated have gone on to pursue architectural or related majors in college. Plans are now underway to expand the ACCI after school program to other high schools in the metro Atlanta area, and involve other local architectural and design colleges.

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LEFT NCARB'S HARRY FALCONER SPEAKS AT THE NEWSCHOOL.

RIGHT JON BAKER SPEAKS TO THE AIA SAN DIEGO GROUP, WHO MET AT THE NTD ARCHITECTURE OFFICE.