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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NCARB

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Since 1997, I've written for *Direct Connection* or its predecessor, *The Certifier*, to keep you informed about changes and developments at NCARB. Needless to say, in the years that followed, much has happened that significantly impacts how we work with and for you. This column just highlights the many changes I've been able to affect over the last 12 years.

This *Direct Connection* you hold in your hand is probably the most tactile and visible of the changes you've experienced. You can compare it superficially to *The Certifier*, but there really is no comparison. Our web site is another communication vehicle where great change in content and style is evident. In the late 1990's, I was told NCARB's web site looked as though it could be the CIA's—and we were about as daunting an organization to approach. These changes didn't just take with the *Direct Connection* and our web site; you've also likely noted the changes in most everything we've done over the past

12 years. This is part of our commitment to be more transparent and communicate more effectively.

When I started in January 1997, I was provided with some fundamental charges from the 1996 Member Board Chairs Conference. The closest thing NCARB had to a strategic plan at that time. The charges were:

1. Investigate the impact of electronic technology on architectural practice and its regulation.
2. Improve communications and relations with collateral organizations at all levels.
3. Investigate the opportunities and limitations of the computerized examination process.
4. Research NAAB criteria and strengthen accreditation procedures.
5. Maintain ongoing momentum on the "Boyer Report."\*

\* *Building Community: A New Future for Architecture Education and Practice*

My 13 years at NCARB have found me—and our leadership and staff—working in each of those areas. Sometimes all at once, sometimes only one or two each year, and yet all have received—and continue to receive—our attention.

Since 1997, the revolution in electronic technology is outpacing all other changes. In late 1998, we looked into the regulatory implications of electronic seals and document submission. In 2008, we completed a study of the impact of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) on the profession and its regulation. NCARB is not the leading indicator of electronic trends; however, we constantly monitor the impact of those changes on the regulation of the profession.

Our communications and outreach have changed with the same pace—from an improved (and still in print!) *Direct Connection*, hard-copy letters and postcards, to webinars, webcasts, podcasts, and HTML e-mails. We have also significantly increased the times and locations where you can find, see, and talk to NCARB. Beginning with the AIA convention, we moved on to booths and speaking engagements at AIA regional and state conventions; schools of architecture; AIAS Grassroots, Forum, and Quads; annual meetings of ACSA, NOMA, CSI, American School Counselors Association, and GreenBuild. All of which allow you to ask us questions, hear from us, and provide feedback on your NCARB experience.

viously, and has established and maintained the Education Standard agreed upon by our Member Boards. We also participate in the governance of the NAAB by providing three appointees to the NAAB Board of Directors and dozens of volunteers to school accreditation visiting teams.

NCARB's significant contribution to forwarding the "Boyer Report" has been the NCARB Prize. Established by NCARB President Peter Steffian, FAIA, in 2001, the Prize has awarded over \$500,000 to 53 individual projects for the "creative integration of practice and education in the academy," recognizing innovative for-credit curricular initiatives that excel in integrating practice and education.

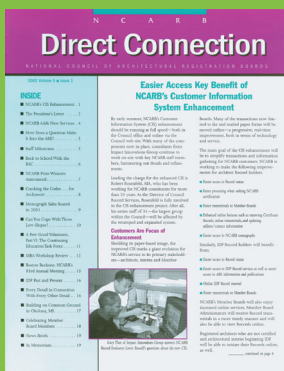
As I look back on the charges I was given, the one thing I can say with confidence is that each of them is looked at constantly, each area has seen significant change and improvement, and each charge still requires and will receive continuing attention. While these initial charges remain important, many additional projects and policies have taken my attention and dedication over the years. More on that to come!



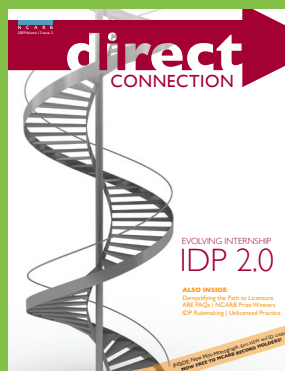
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In addition, you have seen a tremendous change in the technology NCARB uses to serve you. Early in my career when I became certified, it took exactly 364 days. In 1997, the certification process took over one year. In 2010, certification can take as little as one month. Much of this is due to improvements in electronic documents technology, ongoing staff improvement, and the installation of new hardware and software.

Since 1997 we have participated in three National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Accreditation Review Conferences (ARCs)—previously called Validation Conferences. Each conference has allowed us input to refine and improve architectural education. Most recently we completed the most comprehensive review ever conducted of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation, mapping the criteria to the Education Standard and the IDP. NCARB takes the responsibility of monitoring the education of architects se-