



*From left: Architecture students participate in an NCARB-sponsored design competition; NCARB staff chat with emerging professionals; NCARB CEO Michael J. Armstrong (left) joins industry experts for a panel on the future of licensure.*

## Media Contact

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## NCARB at a Glance

### National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

**Founded:** 1919

**Headquarters:** Washington, DC

**CEO:** Michael J. Armstrong

**2024-2025 President:** Kenneth R. Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

**2024-2025 Vice President:** Edward T. Marley, NCARB, FAIA, LEED AP

**Website:** [ncarb.org](http://ncarb.org)

**Destination Architect:** [destinationarchitect.org](http://destinationarchitect.org)

**NCARB by the Numbers:** [ncarb.org/nbtn](http://ncarb.org/nbtn)



*From left: NCARB President Kenneth R. Van Tine speaks with architecture program students; NCARB volunteers engage at the annual Committee Summit; NCARB's members participate in sessions during a regional meeting.*

## Mission

NCARB, in collaboration with licensing boards, **facilitates the licensure and credentialing of architects to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.**

## Who is NCARB?

Our members include the architectural licensing boards of the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands. **Our programs are developed by practicing architects**, licensure candidates, and educators from across the country.

## Vision

Ensuring safe places and spaces for all communities.

## Strategic Goals

- **Facilitate Licensure:** NCARB's programs and services enable the pursuit, achievement, and ongoing maintenance and mobility of architectural licensure.
- **Foster Collaboration:** NCARB's proactive engagement with licensing boards and industry organizations advances the understanding and effectiveness of architectural regulation.
- **Maximize Value:** NCARB's programs and services further the progress of our licensing boards and customers.



## What We Do

### Help architects expand their professional reach with the NCARB Certificate.

With the [NCARB Certificate](#), architects can quickly apply for a reciprocal license in any of the U.S. jurisdictions, as well as several international locations—including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

### Develop the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®).

The ARE is the [national examination](#) that all licensure candidates must take to become licensed.

### Develop and facilitate the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®).

The AXP is a comprehensive [experience program](#), much like a medical residency, that ensures licensure candidates gain the knowledge and skills required to practice architecture.

### Share exclusive data on the path to licensure.

Our yearly publication, [NCARB by the Numbers](#), provides key insights into the number of U.S. architects, architectural education, diversity in the profession, and more.

### Build community and inspire the next generation of architects.

Through our dedicated outreach program, we visit schools, firms, and AIA chapters across the country to ensure that students, licensure candidates, and architects are familiar with the current licensure process.

### Provide continuing education opportunities.

With [NCARB's Continuum Education Series](#), architects can earn continuing education from the comfort of their home—free for NCARB Certificate holders and licensure candidates.

## 2024-2025 Initiatives

### Licensure Data

- In 2024, **there were 116,005 architects licensed in the United States**—four percent less than the previous year.
- Architects continue to hold licenses in multiple states. U.S. architects now hold 150,638 reciprocal (out-of-state) licenses, a 6% increase from 2023.
- Over **39,499 candidates are pursuing an architecture license**—a 5 percent increase from 2023.
- Additional data is available in ***NCARB by the Numbers***, which features key insights into trends on the path to licensure, including attrition and diversity in the profession. The 2025 edition will be published July.

### Pathways to Practice

- NCARB's Pathways to Practice initiative is a multi-year effort to re-imagine the path to licensure.
- Through Pathways to Practice, NCARB hopes to expand entry points to licensed practice, focusing on ensuring that NCARB's programs are flexible and accessible to individuals of all backgrounds.
  - This includes recognizing a variety of educational backgrounds outside a traditional accredited degree.
- As part of Pathways to Practice, NCARB will refresh its core programs to align with a shared foundation: the *NCARB Competency Standard for Architects*.
- NCARB will implement program updates in two key phases:
  - **Short-term:** Minor updates to the AXP and ARE to align with the new *Competency Standard*, while maintaining existing program structure and requirements.
  - **Long-term:** Exploration of licensure pathways and assessment methods outside of the current traditional path, including recognition of a variety of education pathways.
- More information will be announced in summer 2025—visit [www.ncarb.org/pathways](http://www.ncarb.org/pathways) to learn more.

### NCARB Competency Standard for Architects

- Released in October 2024, NCARB's new *Competency Standard for Architects* establishes the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed at the point of initial licensure as an architect.
- The *Competency Standard* defines 16 competencies an architect must be able to perform in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
- As NCARB explores the possibility of multiple pathways to licensure, the *Competency Standard* provides an essential foundation that will ensure that NCARB's programs and services assess the same level of competency at the point of initial licensure.
- Informed by the findings of NCARB's 2022 Analysis of Practice (which included approximately 20,000 architect participants), as well as insights and additional feedback gathered from roughly 5,000 architects in 2023-2024.
- The *Competency Standard* will not replace the current AXP or ARE; instead, these programs will be updated to align with the *Competency Standard*.

### Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL)

- IPAL is a structured path to earning an architecture license that gives students the opportunity to complete all the core licensure requirements while earning a degree.
- Since launching the initiative in 2015, there are currently 33 programs at 28 schools that offer an IPAL option or are in the process of developing their curriculum.
- Effective July 1, 2025, NCARB will implement several changes intended to make participating in IPAL more accessible for a range of students.
- These changes include:
  - Allowing certain schools that are not currently NAAB-accredited to offer IPAL options.
  - Requiring 75% rather than 100% AXP completion at the time of graduation.
  - Enabling students to take NCARB's free practice exams rather than attempting each ARE division prior to graduation.
  - Extending exam eligibility post-graduation for IPAL participants.
  - Visit [www.ncarb.org/IPAL](http://www.ncarb.org/IPAL) to learn more.

### Workforce Readiness

- NCARB has released a new report providing insight into the top knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) expected for an entry-level role in architecture.
- Intended to help bridge the gap between architectural education and practice, the *Workforce Readiness Report* provides a framework for incorporating the top skills recent graduates need into all types of architectural education.
- Created with research and input from thousands of both licensed and unlicensed architecture professionals, the *Workforce Readiness Report* identifies 53 KSAs needed to effectively perform in an entry-level architecture position.
- The report highlights nine KSAs that both licensed and unlicensed individuals indicated were most critical for an entry-level role.
- To promote career-readiness at the college level, the *Workforce Readiness Report* includes a framework that educators can use to guide the development of academic curriculum.
- Learn more about the report at [www.ncarb.org/readiness](http://www.ncarb.org/readiness).

### Building Impact Study

- RAND's *Building Impact* report is a new independent study analyzing the gap between architectural academia and practice.
- The study was commissioned by AIA and NCARB, with support from the ACSA, as a follow-up to the 1996 *Building Community* report (also known as the "Boyer Report").
- It identifies several key findings related to the accessibility, affordability, and applicability of architectural education.
- The report also proposes several recommendations to improve the relationship between education and practice.
- Visit [www.ncarb.org/RAND](http://www.ncarb.org/RAND) to learn more.

## Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)

- NCARB's ARE 5.0 is a multi-divisional exam used to assess licensure candidate's knowledge and skills related to aspects of architecture essential to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.
- ARE 5.0's divisions mirror the six practice areas of the AXP, so candidates can use the experience program to guide their professional growth and exam strategy.
- Recently, NCARB has launched several updates to the exam designed to improve accessibility and equity, including:
  - **Retiring the rolling clock:** NCARB retired the rolling clock policy in May 2023 and adopted a score validity policy, basing the validity of passed exam scores on the version of the exam instead of a fixed time frame. Since then, over 3,400 candidates had at least one ARE 5.0 credit reinstated, and all 55 U.S. jurisdictions have retired their rolling clock.
  - **Drag-and-place retirement:** The exam no longer includes drag-and-place items. NCARB strives to align with evolving testing best practices, which indicate that other item types used on the ARE assess candidates' qualifications more effectively.
  - **Free practice exams:** NCARB has launched free full-length, fully scored practice programs for each division of ARE 5.0. These practice exams provide a no-cost, quality study resource for all candidates to prepare for the ARE. Exam data shows the practice exams are positively impacting pass rates.
  - **Automatic provisional feedback:** All candidates now see provisional feedback automatically at the end of their exam delivery.
  - **English as a Second Language (ESL) Accommodation:** Beginning June 28, 2022, NCARB began offering exam accommodations for candidates who speak English as a second language. Candidates who speak English as a second language are eligible for extra time on the exam and access to a word-to-word translation dictionary.

## NCARB Certificate

- In 2018, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a report on enhancing license portability, recognizing the NCARB Certificate as a "vehicle for multi-state practice" and "a factor for expedited licensing."
- In 2017, NCARB launched two alternative paths to certification for architects without a NAAB-accredited degree:
  - **Two Times AXP:** Architects with an architecture-related degree can satisfy the education requirement for certification by documenting two times the required hours in each of the AXP's experience areas.
  - **Certificate Portfolio:** Architects with any other education can satisfy the education requirement by submitting a portfolio addressing the areas of the *NCARB Education Standard*.
- There are over 51,000 NCARB Certificate holders.

## Come Visit Us at A'25 at Booth #939

- Join us at one of these sessions involving NCARB staff:
  - **Shaping the Future of Design Across Borders: a Global Architecture Workshop presented by AIA International** | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4 (NCARB portion at 1 – 1:30 p.m.)
  - **Strengthening Your Firm Through Intentional Supervision** | 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4 | 1 RIBA/LU
  - **Laying the Foundations: National Latinx Architects Coalition** | 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 5
  - **The Path to Licensure: Navigating the Journey from Education to Practice at the NextGen Lounge** | 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5
- NCARB leadership will be available at the NCARB booth (#939) in the expo hall at the following time:
  - **Thursday, June 5:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

## President Kenneth R. Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Kenneth R. Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of Brighton, Michigan, has been a member of NCARB since 1986. His term as president begins on June 15, 2024. His service to the organization began in 2012 as treasurer for the Mid-Central Conference (Region 4). Van Tine's commitment to NCARB has continued in the following years as vice chair from 2013-2015 and chair from 2016-2018. In addition to being an active member of Region 4, he has served on the Audit, Experience, Procedures and Documents, and Regional Leadership committees, as well as the ARE 5.0 Item Development Subcommittee. Additionally, Van Tine has served as the Board of Director's liaison to the Professional Conduct Committee and represents NCARB on the board of directors for its software development subsidiary, Lineup®. Van Tine has also represented NCARB as a member of several National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) visiting teams.

Van Tine is the technical design principal, Chief Financial Officer, and a founding partner of inFORM studio—a multidisciplinary design firm of 40, with offices in Detroit and Chicago that practices throughout the United States and internationally. As an active AXP supervisor and a volunteer counselor for teens and young adults at his local church, Van Tine is dedicated to guiding and mentoring young professionals; he has also participated in the AIA Mentorship Program for nearly eight years. His firm has produced seven recipients of the AIA Detroit and/or AIA Michigan Young Architects Award, with the latest receiving the AIA National Young Architects Award. Van Tine holds an NCARB Certificate and is licensed to practice in Michigan and 34 other states and jurisdictions.

## Vice President Edward Marley, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Edward Marley, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of Tucson, Arizona, will be inducted as vice president on June 15, 2024. Marley was a member of the Arizona Board of Technical Registration from 2012-2018, where he served as chair for two terms. His volunteer work with NCARB includes the Broadly Experienced Architect, Credentials, Regional Leadership, and Policy Advisory committees. He has also served on the Certification Alternatives Review Team. Marley was elected to the NCARB Board of Directors in 2019, where he served as the director of Region 6 for two years. Previously, Marley served as the secretary/treasurer, vice chair, and chair of Region 6. He was elected to the NCARB Board of Directors as second vice president at the 2023 NCARB Annual Business Meeting.

Marley is vice president of Swaim Associates, LTD, Architects, which he joined in 1983 and was promoted to partner in 1992. Marley has been an NCARB Certificate holder since 1997 and is licensed in eight jurisdictions. A member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) since 1983, he has served as the local chapter secretary and president, as well as the Arizona chapter president. Between 1983 and 1997, Marley was the architect licensing advisor for Arizona. In recognition of these contributions to architecture and his community, Marley was awarded the Arizona Architects Medal in 2004. Marley has served on several local boards and is the president of Cornerstone Building Foundation Charities—which provides scholarships to local building-related educational groups, including the University of Arizona from which he graduated in 1982. In 2024, he was inducted into the AIA College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in recognition of his career-long achievements in advancing the profession of architecture.

## Second Vice President John Patrick Rademacher, NCARB, AIA, NOMA



John Patrick Rademacher, NCARB, AIA, NOMA, has worked in design, architecture, development, and construction for more than 40 years. Currently, he is Senior Vice President at the Elevar Design Group, where he is in his 23rd year.

Rademacher was elected NCARB's FY25 second vice president at the organization's 2024 Annual Business Meeting and previously served as treasurer. He also serves as the NCARB Board liaison to the Futures Task Force and is chair of the Audit Committee.

He has served as the Board liaison to the Examination Committee and the Incidental Practice Task Force, the chair of NCARB's Experience and Experience Advisory Committees, and a member of NCARB's Diversity Collaborative; Advocacy Work Group; ARE 5.0 Item Development Project Management Subcommittee; Continuing Education Committee; Examination Committee; International Evaluation Committee; Policy

Advisory Committee; Regional Leadership Committee; and US/UK Competencies Review Team.

He is a past president of American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cincinnati and a past member of the Board Advocacy Committee for the national component of the AIA, where he worked to develop the Citizen Architect Program and promote the organization's legislative efforts.

As a civically engaged architect, Rademacher is a past member of the Miami Township Zoning Commission and a member of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, Minority Business Partnership. He is also a member of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA).

## Chief Executive Officer Michael J. Armstrong



Prior to joining NCARB in 2011, Mike held senior positions at the International Code Council (ICC), ICF International, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Conservation. He began his career with 10 years as an assistant city attorney specializing in land use, zoning and planning, code adoption and enforcement, historic preservation, and human resources management. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Juris Doctorate from the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, where he served on the Law Review.

Mike currently serves on the Executive Board of the Federations of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and on the Board of the Washington Architectural Foundation. He has served as an adjunct professor at The George Washington University and is a former trustee of the Association of State Floodplain Managers' (ASFPM) Foundation Board. His honorifics include: Honorary Membership in La Federacion de Colegios de Arquitectos de la Republica Mexicana (FCARB); Medals bestowed by FCARM and by the Mexican National Registration Council for Professional Certification of Architects (CONARC); Presidential Citations from the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) California Council; and U.S. Senate confirmation as President Clinton's appointee to FEMA Associate Director.

Additionally, Mike has authored a number of articles for professional journals and provided testimony before committees of the U.S. Congress. He is also licensed to practice law in Colorado and before the U.S. Supreme Court.