

# ARE 5.0 Progress

Beginning the ARE 5.0 cut score process and offering new incentives have led to more candidates scheduling exam divisions. [Read more](#)

## January Highlights

### Council Relations Director

Meet Joshua Batkin, NCARB's new director of Council Relations. [Read more](#)

### MRA Update

Architects are already taking advantage of the new MRA between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. [Read more](#)

### Model Law Collaboration

NCARB is working with other regulatory organizations to determine how model law language can best serve Member Boards. [Read more](#)

## NCARB in the Press



- [MRA Enables Architects to Earn Reciprocal Licensure Abroad](#)
- [NCARB Announces Architectural Licensing Agreement with Australia and New Zealand](#)
- [Duan Tran Found Inspiration in Movies; Now He Designs Houses for Movie Stars](#)

## Recent News



- [Free Retake for Early ARE 5.0 Testers](#)
- [US, Australia, and New Zealand Establish Arrangement to Recognize Architect Credentials](#)

## Top Blog Posts



- [Let's Go Further in 2017](#)
- [ARE 5.0: Why I Transitioned and You Should, Too](#)

“The essential thread of our innovation story is one of collaboration: between members and the Council, the Board and staff, across collaterals, and including the greater universe of customers, students, and yes, critics.”

—Message from the CEO, Page 2



## Message from the CEO

Dear Colleagues –

January was truly a month for fresh starts and new beginnings in and around the Council.

- Our ARE 5.0 Committee work positioned the NCARB Board to embark upon a series of meetings to determine the pass/fail threshold (called the cut score), for each of the new exam's six divisions. Registrations for ARE 5.0 picked up momentum in January, assisted by ongoing (\$100 gift cards) and new ([free re-testing](#)) incentives to encourage early testers.
- Meanwhile, we are preparing a new initiative to credential test prep providers as "NCARB approved," assuring exam candidates of the legitimacy and accuracy of their materials.
- Our newly minted Mutual Recognition Arrangement with Australia and New Zealand, effective January 1, has already yielded an Australian and New Zealand license for a U.S. architect.
- The annual meeting of regulatory leaders from architecture (NCARB), engineering (NCEES), landscape architecture (CLARB), and interior design (CIDQ) resulted in a commitment to conduct a gap analysis comparing model law language from each entity, with an overarching goal of facilitating greater collaboration and reduced burden on Member Boards that share some or all of these disciplines.
- Our Council Relations Directorate, charged with Member Board relations, member services, and collateral relations, gained a new director: Joshua Batkin. Josh served as an appointee of President Obama as the Director of External Affairs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he led the agency's congressional affairs, public affairs, intergovernmental affairs, private sector, strategic communications, and external affairs operations. Josh also served for nearly seven years as the chief of staff to the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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## CEO on the Road



### January

**Leadership Summit on Design Innovation and Technology**  
La Jolla, CA | January 11

**ASAE Leadership Workshop**  
Orlando, FL | January 12-13

**NCARB Executive Committee and BOD Meeting**  
Half Moon Bay, CA | January 16-22

**Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) Meeting**  
San Antonio, TX | January 26

**Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum**  
San Antonio, TX | January 27-29

### Upcoming events

**Alabama Board of Architects**  
Montgomery, AL | February 21-22

**Model Law Task Force Meeting**  
Savannah, GA | February 24-25

It was also a month to recharge our batteries, both for our internal and external work. NCARB leadership received a refresher in regulatory issues at the 2017 FARB Forum, where 16 members of NCARB staff, state boards, and the NCARB Board of Directors networked with colleagues across the regulatory spectrum and heard updates on key legal and administrative issues facing state boards. President Kristine A. Harding, NCARB, AIA; First Vice President/President-elect Gregory L. Erny, FAIA, NCARB; and I were also able to spend some quality time exploring best practices in association leadership at an ASAE training workshop the previous week.

Appropriately enough, the month began with an opportunity to stretch and think about innovation and how it has shaped the NCARB culture, relationships, and services over the last several years. The folks at DesignIntelligence invited me to tell our story at their annual Leadership Summit on Design Innovation and Technology, with an audience including some familiar faces from the profession and academia, along with a number of very engaged professionals from around the United States. The essential thread of our innovation story is one of collaboration: between members and the Council, the Board and staff, across collaterals, and including the greater universe of customers, students, and yes, critics. It certainly whetted my appetite for the coming months in this still-new year.

Best wishes,

*Mike*



Customer Relations representatives chat about their role at the Quarterly All Staff Meeting.

## Collateral Engagement



**Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)**  
**NCARB Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting** | Half Moon Bay, CA | January 19-21

**American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)**  
**AIAS Forum** | Boston, MA | December 29-January 1

**Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB)**  
**FARB Forum** | San Antonio, TX | January 26-29

## Strategic Plan

Our goals of **Facilitating Licensure** and **Fostering Collaboration** were a key focus of the January Board of Directors meeting. The Board heard an update on ARE 5.0 performance metrics, including a discussion on incentivizing registrations and preparing for cut score determination. It also conducted an extended blue-sky conversation regarding the role of the NCARB Certificate in guaranteeing licensing eligibility and the backdrop of state legislatures grappling with minimizing regulatory impediments. The Board also spent a considerable amount of time discussing the role of education in the context of licensure, ranging from a blue-sky discussion on accreditation to a direct engagement with the leaders of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). The ACSA engagement spotlighted the growing ability of the ACSA to serve as a research partner, as well as an interest in finding areas for joint collaboration. Metrics on the status of the licensure candidate and architect pipelines indicate overall performance ahead of expectations for the current fiscal year.



**@DFC\_Global**

@NCARB CEO Michael Armstrong: "If you don't create a culture that starts with relationship development you won't get very far."

## Organizational Development and Office Life

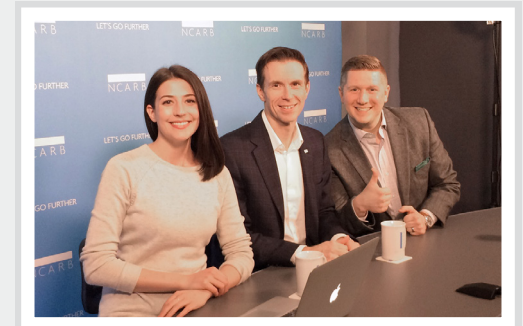
- The Administration Directorate has launched an internal assessment exercise to determine the best use of talent and capacity for existing and upcoming work. The Information Systems Directorate has reorganized, adding a second assistant director position. The Council Relations Directorate is onboarding its new director and ramping up plans for future Member Board visits. The redesigned office space is now fully functional, with the first broadcast of NCARB Live from the Video Center, and staff taking advantage of alternative work space and break space in the refreshed Break Room and new Quiet Room.

## Office of the CEO

- The Ethics Task Force continued their comprehensive review of NCARB's Rules of Conduct and the Council's future role in ethics and professional conduct. The task force is focusing their efforts on specific changes to the Rules, suggested educational opportunities for the Council, an implementation/adoption strategy for our Member Boards, and additional training materials for the profession.
- COO Mary de Sousa, in her role as president of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB), presided over a strategic planning engagement for the FARB board of directors. The full-day session focused on future growth of FARB in supporting the associations of regulatory boards in their efforts to serve member licensing boards. Additionally, de Sousa kicked off the annual FARB Forum, a conference attended by over 200 individuals from the associations of regulatory boards and agencies that make up FARB's membership.



NCARB welcomes Joshua Batkin, the director of Council Relations.



NCARB staff prepare to host an NCARB Live webinar about ARE 5.0 in the new Video Center.