

NCARB UPDATE

MARCH 2026 ISSUE

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MAINTAINING FORWARD MOMENTUM

March was a flurry of activity for NCARB, including external engagement, finalizing committee deliverables, and participating in a rich Regional Summit engagement focused on best practices for regulators.

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MBE WORKSHOP & REGIONAL SUMMIT

Licensing board members and executives gathered in Oklahoma City for NCARB's annual Member Board Executives (MBE) Workshop and Regional Summit.

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LICENSURE R&D TASK FORCE

The Licensure Process Research & Development (R&D) Task Force held its final meeting in March, wrapping up four years of effort on NCARB's Pathways to Practice initiative.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

MAINTAINING FORWARD MOMENTUM

Dear Colleagues,

As we entered into spring, March seemed to involve quickening our pace on the multiple fronts of external engagement, finalizing committee deliverables, and participating in a rich Regional Summit engagement focused on best practices for regulators. We are so grateful for the level of commitment shown by our volunteers and our colleagues from our adjacent organizations, jointly focused on continuous improvement and mindful of the diverse constituencies we serve.

A significant number of attendees newer to the world of licensing boards populated the Regional Summit and the adjacent MBE Workshop. Incorporating fresh perspectives and revisiting our rationale are keeping our conversations relevant and contributing to our forward momentum.

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The six Architecture Alliance organizations were hosted by the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) at their spring leadership meeting, focusing on the essential nature of collaboration and celebrating areas where we are stronger when we work together. We heard an update from the American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) advocacy team regarding efforts to address draft U.S. Department of Education regulations that would cap

access to federally supported student loans for architecture graduate programs, and agreed to continue a united front on supporting efforts to modify the proposed limits.

We are also heavily into planning for the end of our fiscal year and key events involving our Member Boards and committees—ranging from summits to new charges and appointments related to anticipated Pathways to Practice deliverables—over the next nine months, including a second phase of preparing for a refresh of our Strategic Plan.

It is a privilege to continue together with all of you in these important conversations!

With best wishes,

Mike

Michael Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer



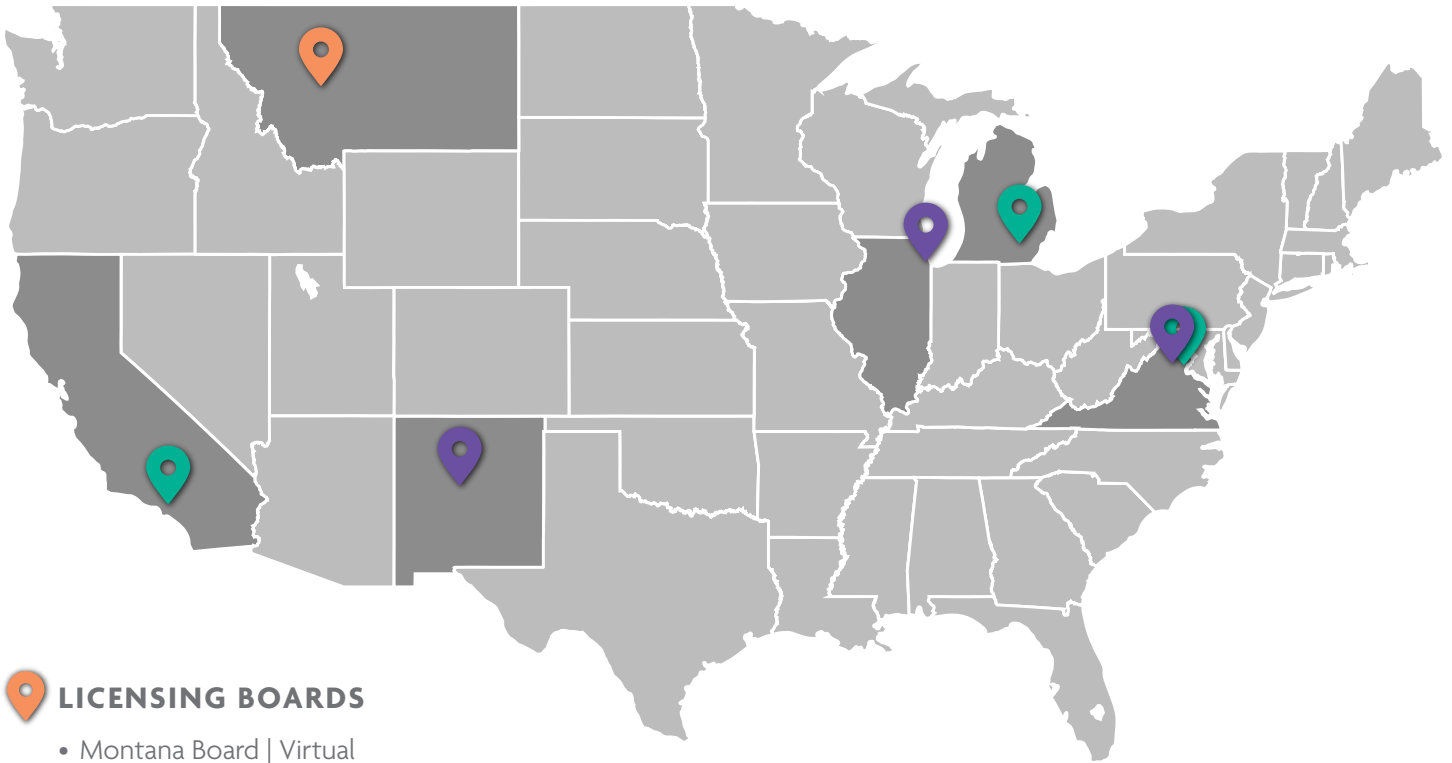
CEO Armstrong presented an update on NCARB's upcoming activity during the annual Regional Summit.

CEO ENGAGEMENTS

- **Architecture Alliance Meeting**
March 12 – 13 | Washington, DC
- **MBE Workshop**
March 19 | Oklahoma City, OK
- **Regional Summit**
March 20 – 21 | Oklahoma City, OK
- **FY27 Budget Review & Volunteer Appointments**
March 30 – April 1 | Washington, DC

OUTREACH IN MARCH

Each month, NCARB visits universities, professional organizations, firms, and conferences to share information about our programs and resources. See where we went this month!



LICENSING BOARDS

- Montana Board | Virtual

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

- Virginia Tech | Alexandria, VA
- University of Puerto Rico | Virtual
- Cal Poly Pomona | Virtual
- University of Michigan | Virtual

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- AIA New Mexico | Virtual
- Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) Mid-Atlantic Conference | Washington, DC
- Alpha Rho Chi National Convention | Albuquerque, NM
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting | Chicago, IL

SENIOR LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

ARCHITECTURE ALLIANCE MEETING

- In mid-March, NOMA hosted the spring Architecture Alliance in Washington, DC.
- The Architecture Alliance includes the AIA, American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), NCARB, and NOMA.
- NCARB President Edward T. Marley, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP; Vice President John Rademacher, NCARB, AIA, NOMA; Second Vice President Sylvia Kwan, FAIA, NCARB, NOMA, LEED AP; and CEO Mike Armstrong attended the meeting, sharing updates on NCARB's recent activities, receiving similar updates from other Alliance organizations, and discussing areas for collaboration—including engagement with K-12 students.



Leadership from the six Architecture Alliance organizations gathered in Washington, DC, for their spring meeting.

MBE WORKSHOP & REGIONAL SUMMIT

- NCARB's annual MBE Workshop & Regional Summit was held March 19 – 21 in Oklahoma City. This year's summit was hosted by Region 5.
 - The MBE Workshop is designed for the executive leadership and staff of each licensing board, with an agenda put together by the MBE Committee.
 - The agenda for the Regional Summit is planned each year by the Regional Leadership Committee, with a focus on regional business.

- During the summit, President Marley shared an update on this year's key initiatives, including the ongoing Pathways to Practice effort.
- Secretary/Treasurer Miguel Rodriguez, FAIA, NCARB, NOMA, provided an overview of the current draft resolutions. In April, the Board of Directors will vote to determine which resolutions will move forward for action at the June Annual Business Meeting.
- Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from candidates running for positions on the FY27 Board of Directors.
- Throughout the summit, attendees met as regions to conduct regional business, including regional budgets, conferences, and leadership.
- Attendees also heard presentations on Pathways to Practice, the new *Practice Overlap Guidance* document, continuing competency, and more.



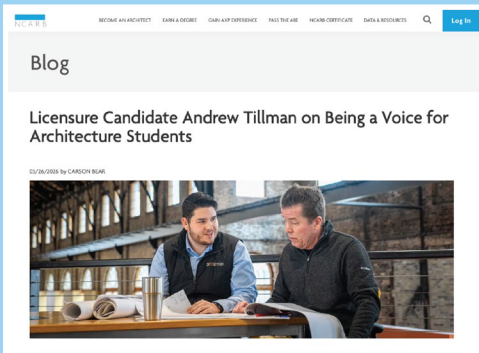
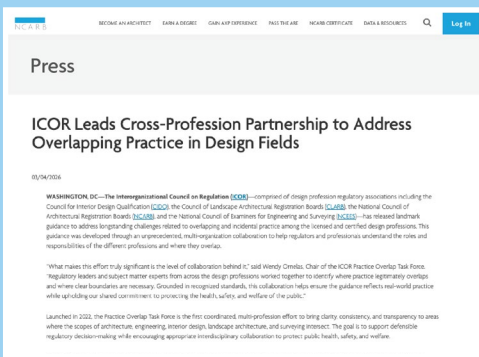
Nate Baker presents to attendees at Regional Summit.

PREPARING FOR FY27

- In late March, Vice President Rademacher and Secretary/Treasurer Rodriguez worked with NCARB staff to review a draft of the organization's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which will start on July 1.
- The draft budget will be previewed with the FY26 Board of Directors at their April meeting and enacted by the newly elected FY27 Board of Directors after the close of the Annual Business Meeting in June.
- In addition, in his role as incoming FY27 President, Vice President Rademacher worked with staff to finalize committee charges and review volunteer applications for the upcoming fiscal year. Volunteers will receive their appointments for the coming year in late April.

NCARB IN ACTION

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S NEW



NCARB IN THE NEWS

- **Retrofit:** [How Will NCARB's Pathways to Practice Initiative Impact Architects Who Already Are Licensed?](#)
- **Building Enclosure:** [ICOR Announces New Guidance to Overlapping Practice in Design Fields](#)
- **Texas Architect:** [IPAL Recognizes First Graduate](#)

NCARB PRESS

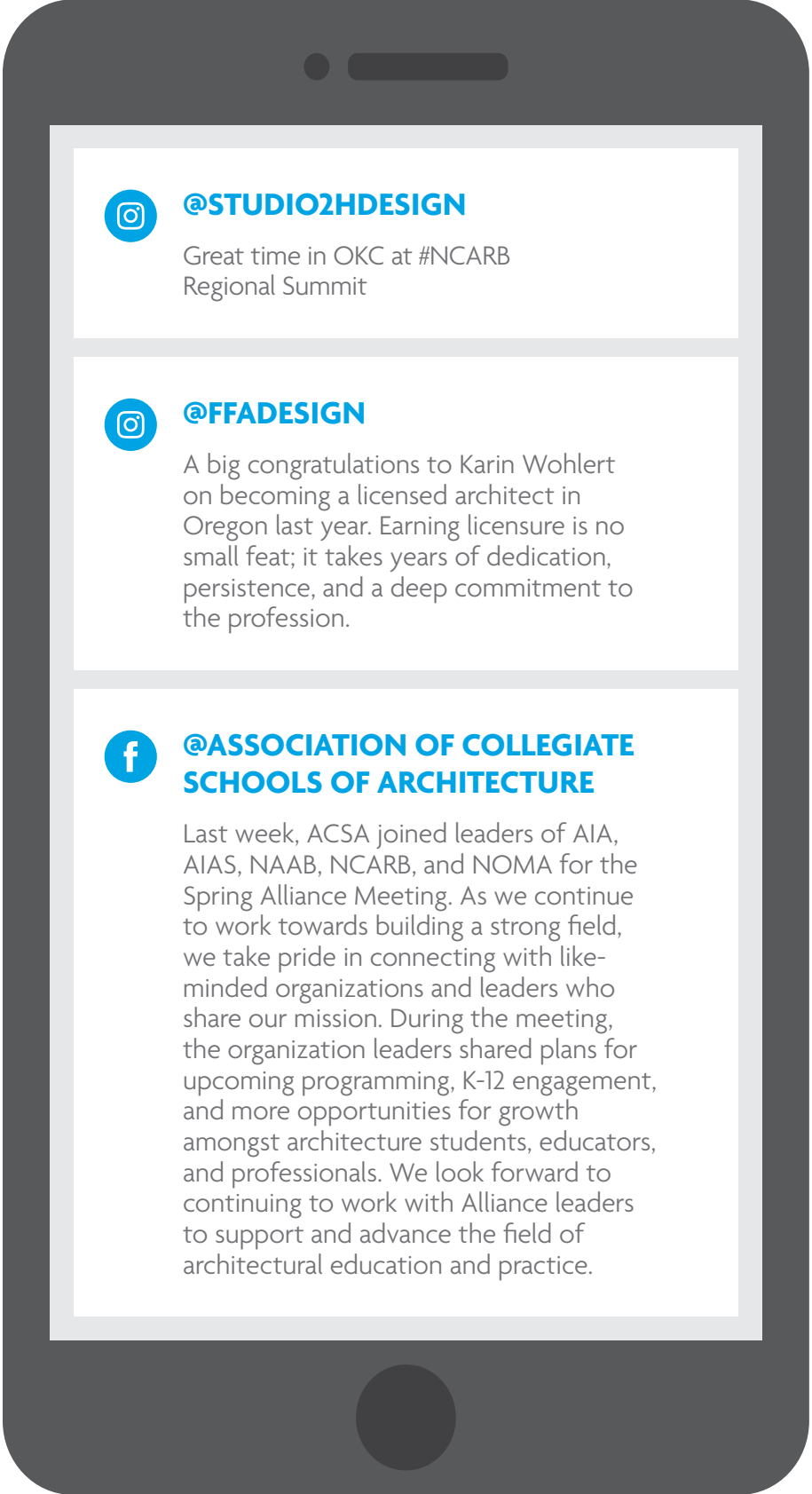
- [ICOR Leads Cross-Profession Partnership to Address Overlapping Practice in Design Fields](#)
- [Regional Leadership Elected at NCARB's 2026 Regional Summit](#)

TOP BLOG POSTS

- [Licensure Candidate Andrew Tillman on Being a Voice for Architecture Students](#)
- [Exploring New Ways to Assess Architectural Competency](#)
- [How Are Changing Systems and Technologies Transforming the Role of the Architect?](#)

NCARB SOCIAL

THIS MONTH'S FEED



@STUDIO2HDESIGN

Great time in OKC at #NCARB Regional Summit



@FFADESIGN

A big congratulations to Karin Wohlert on becoming a licensed architect in Oregon last year. Earning licensure is no small feat; it takes years of dedication, persistence, and a deep commitment to the profession.



@ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

Last week, ACSA joined leaders of AIA, AIAS, NAAB, NCARB, and NOMA for the Spring Alliance Meeting. As we continue to work towards building a strong field, we take pride in connecting with like-minded organizations and leaders who share our mission. During the meeting, the organization leaders shared plans for upcoming programming, K-12 engagement, and more opportunities for growth amongst architecture students, educators, and professionals. We look forward to continuing to work with Alliance leaders to support and advance the field of architectural education and practice.



@VINCEDIAZZ

21st of March 2026 Oath Taking of New Architects #licensedarchitect #architect

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Learn about the projects, collaborations, initiatives, and events that NCARB has accomplished or focused on this month.

LICENSURE R&D TASK FORCE

- The Licensure Process R&D Task Force held its final meeting in March, wrapping up four years of effort on NCARB's Pathways to Practice initiative.
- The task force was first established in July 2022 to begin exploring how NCARB could evaluate competency for licensure in the future.
- In FY26, the task force has focused their efforts on finalizing criteria that will be used to evaluate each of the 16 competencies identified in NCARB's *Competency Standard for Architects*. The criteria will be previewed to NCARB's membership at the Annual Business Meeting in June.
- Thank you to everyone who has served on this task force over the past several fiscal years!



The Licensure R&D Task Force held its final meeting in March.

NCARB SCHOLARS

- NCARB is excited to announce the [2026 NCARB Scholars in Professional Practice program](#), which will be held from August 6 – 8, at the University of Memphis.
- Through this program, NCARB invites a cohort of up to 16 professional practice professors to attend the three-day, intensive professional development opportunity.
- The program focuses on both current and forward-looking trends in academia and practice.

PRACTICE OVERLAP GUIDANCE

- The Interorganizational Council on Regulation ([ICOR](#)) released a [landmark guidance document](#) designed to address longstanding challenges related to overlapping and incidental practice among the licensed and certified design professions.
- ICOR is comprised of design profession regulatory associations, including the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), NCARB, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).
- The [Practice Overlap Guidance](#) document was developed through an unprecedented, multi-organization collaboration to help regulators and professionals understand the roles and responsibilities of the different professions and where they overlap.



ICOR Task Force member Wendy Ornelas shared an overview of the ICOR Practice Overlap Guidance resource during Regional Summit.

UPDATED SUPERVISOR CE COURSES

- NCARB released [updated continuing education \(CE\) courses](#) for Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) supervisors.
- The courses—including one course for all supervisors and one designed specifically for AXP Portfolio supervisors—provide an overview of the experience program's requirements and policies and highlight best practices for AXP supervisors.
- These courses are available for free to all supervisors and are worth Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) CE credit.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- The Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) Item Maintenance Subcommittee met to continue their efforts to review existing exam items and update them as needed.
- The Policy Advisory Committee met virtually to review proposed resolutions for the upcoming Annual Business Meeting and discuss any feedback received from NCARB's members.