The President’s Pen
Dillon Brady

The industry is alive and kicking. With so much going on around the region it was fantastic to see and hear from professionals at The Southern Region conference this last month. We had more than 300 people attend and share their best practices and challenges in such a collaborative way that it reminded me why this organization is so important to our industry. If you couldn’t attend please consider this your invitation to join us next year in Fort Worth, TX.

Looking into the future, our region is forecasting more than $6 Billion in new k-12 work over the next four years. This alone presents a fantastic opportunity for the future of education, both for our students and our educators. This also presents a significant challenge for the industry. With oil prices increasing, high-rises being built, and the medical & tech industries booming, our labor force to design and build in the coming months and years will be strained. We need to continue to collaborate with each other to be smarter and more efficient on how we design facilities and the associated impact to the workers and materials that are needed to put the pieces together. Additionally, with budget cuts in school finances the industry needs to be diligent in providing school districts with long term, efficient systems that help decrease the overall operating cost.

It is an exciting time for the organization and there are so many awesome things going on from the 20 under 40 event in the North Texas Chapter and the amazing Case Studies being presented in the Central Texas Chapter. The Gulf Coast Chapter held their annual AGC/A4LE Economic Outlook event at the end of April, with more than 200 attendees, to review and discuss the future of our industry and the impacts other industries have on needed resources.

The International Conference (LearningSCAPES 2019) is just around the corner in Anaheim, CA on October 4-6. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn what is going on around the country and hear people from around the globe on what others are doing to tackle the challenges of the future of education.
Happy Spring!

The Foundation Advisory Board has been hard at work as it is scholarship season. We were able to award six scholarships to southern region members to attend the Mission Possible regional conference in San Antonio last month. The scholarship recipients were:

- Tiffany Banks
- Greg Segura
- Miguel Tamez
- Kent Brittain
- Sarah Stolting
- Maya Zatezalo

We also just received and are evaluating scholarship applications for the Otto Grove Advanced Academy 2019-2020. This is a competitive merit-based scholarship for the Advanced Academy for Learning Spaces. This intense, high quality program consists of six, 6-week online courses created by industry experts and is delivered through San Diego State University’s Interwork Institute Center for Distance Learning (IL-CDL). The comprehensive program of study is grounded in the key knowledge and skills central to the sound planning, building and maintaining of learner-centered school facilities. Based on chapters of "Creating Connections: The Guide for Educational Facility Planning", each course addresses one phase of the capital project, while the complete program emphasizes a collaborative process that engages all stakeholders. One (1) scholarship candidate will be selected as the recipient of a $4,900 Scholarship.

In addition, check the website for the application for the Otto Grove 2019 College Scholarship. This is a competitive, merit-based scholarship designed for students who desire financial support for their pursuit of undergraduate and post-graduate educational opportunities. Each academic year, five (5) students will be selected as the recipients of a $3,000 scholarship. Applications are due June 7, 2019, so make sure you get the word out!

Finally, be on the lookout for the LearningSCAPES conference scholarship application, which will be on the website in June. This year’s conference is October 4-6, 2019 in beautiful Anaheim. Don’t miss out!
20 Under 40 Symposium
Jared Boyles, PE

On April 11-12, 2019 The North Texas Chapter held the Southern Region’s first “Twenty Under Forty” Symposium. Delegates were nominated from all chapters in the southern region to comprise the twenty emerging A4LE members near or under the age of forty.

Delegates met on April 11th to meet and greet one another downtown at the Statler Hotel. The following day, attendees participated in workshops to develop ideas A4LE may utilize in order to improve/enhance Emerging Professionals and the Organization as a whole.

The symposium also included two panel discussions with more experienced members in the K-12 A/E/C industry. The first discussion included Briar Glenn, Thom Campbell, Wade Wimbish, and Brandon Boyter and was held at the Architecture Design and Exchange building downtown. This discussion was held to answer any questions involving the K-12 construction process and overall emerging professional related topics. The second lecture was with Tim Strucely and was informative from a district perspective regarding the design and construction processes.

Alcuin School held the symposium’s site visit in the afternoon. The site visit provided information regarding Montessori schools and how student education is developed all the way from kindergarten to high school graduation.

Overall, the symposium allowed attendees to meet one another, see what adjacent chapters are doing, gain insight into the multidiscipline industry and help one another grow.
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Finally, congratulations to Kerri Ranney for being this year’s recipient of the Southern Region Planner of the Year.

Thank you all for what you do and your commitment to the future of education.

Dillon Brady
President, A4LE Southern Region

The Oklahoma Chapter

The Oklahoma Chapter is proud to announce that Liz Rohrbacker was chosen to represent Oklahoma A4LE at the Southern Region 20 Under 40 Event April 11-12 in Dallas, Texas. Liz and the other selected young professionals examined topics about leadership—in their companies, A4LE, and regionally. Liz is Vice President of the growing Oklahoma chapter of A4LE and is pursing ALEP certification. She was also recently named to Oklahoma Magazine’s 40 Under 40.

Liz Rohrbacker (Third from left front row) and her colleagues at KKT Architects, Inc.
From the 2019 Planner of the Year.

I am honored to be the 2019 Southern Region Planner of the Year and was blown away by the thoughtfulness and planning that went into making this an unforgettable experience for me. I have had the good fortune of being actively involved in A4LE (and CEFPI) for over a decade now and have enjoyed the people I’ve met, the work we’ve done, and the experiences shared. I have learned a lot along the way and owe great thanks to a few individuals who have been influential in my journey over the last decade. Irene Nigaglioni catapulted me into volunteering and board service which allowed me to engage deeply in the organization. Jerry Hammerlun and Chris Huckabee saw potential in me even I didn’t know was there and championed my passions and helped make them my career. Philip Idle, Deb O’Riley and Richard Leonard allowed me to engage in A4LE in ah-MAZ-ing ways in Singapore and Australia and bring such rich experiences back to Texas. And Dillon Brady who has been my number one cheerleader for at least a dozen or twenty four years. The work I’ve been part of, within the Association and in my career, is incredibly meaningful to me and plays such a crucial role in my building a legacy to be proud of. Thank you to all of those involved in the process that made my selection a reality. I greatly appreciate your support and will continue to make you proud.

KR

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I came back to the office with many great ideas and am inspired to implement these into our school designs moving forward. I shared a few Ubers and lots of laughs getting to know new people and catching up with old friends. Overall, it was a wonderful experience and I can’t wait for next year’s conference! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make everything come together!”
May 8, 2019 = Chapter Meeting on "Outdoor Learning Environments", to be held at Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center (8400 NW Military Highway, San Antonio, TX 78230).

Any members who are not receiving invitations to the chapter events (via email from the A4LE organization) should contact Donna Robinson.

South Texas Student Scholarship Recipients will be announced May 20. The South Texas chapter, since 2012, has awarded two scholarships each year to graduating high school students that intend to pursue college or career training in the AEC industry. We are currently soliciting volunteers to participate in the scholarship interview part of the selection process, which will be conducted on Saturday, May 18...those who are interested can contact Robyn Popa (robyn@pflugerarchitects.com). Our continued support from the Southern Region Foundation, as well as our annual sponsors, has made these scholarships possible for these students...we are so thankful!

Any A4LE members that are interested in becoming part of the South Texas chapter board can contact a current board member to express their interest. Nominations will be collected and an election by the membership will occur at the September chapter meeting.

Stay tuned to learn about our upcoming September Mixer! This is a great event held each year to commemorate the closing of an A4LE year, and to celebrate on the start of a new school year! Come join us as we network and enjoy the company of our colleagues!

Any members who are looking to renew their membership, or have questions on when their current membership expires, can reach out to Josue Burguete (jburgu@neisd.net) to confirm the details.

The 2020 LearningSCAPES conference will be held in San Antonio next year! Any South Texas members who are interested in volunteering can contact Robyn Popa (robyn@pflugerarchitects.com) to best determine how they can assist.