



**LearningSCAPES 2020
 Virtual Conference**
 November 4-6, 2020
*Registration ends October
 30, 2020*

**2021 Southern Region
 Conference**
 April 6-9, 2021
 Austin, Texas

PRESIDENT'S PEN

I am excited and honored to serve as your incoming Southern Region President. On behalf of our region, I want to thank Tim McClure for his leadership and his continued dedication to serve our organization. Tim will be transitioning from the Southern Region Board to the International Board as our International SR Director. In Tim's absence, Dillon Brady will serve another year as past president. I also want to welcome Russ Johnson as our incoming SR President Elect. We will continue working together as a team, along with the chapter leaders, to put into action the goals that were established at our SR Strategic Planning Session this past February. To quickly summarize the five main goals:

1. Knowledge Based Goal: Provide Educational Collateral and Relevant Communication with Membership
2. Membership Based Goal: Focus on Mentorship and Chapter Partner Initiative (Chapter Protégé Program)
3. Foundation Based Goal: Fundraising, Sponsorship, and Support
4. International Based Goal: Support and Lead Emerging Professional's 20 Under 40 & Chapter Partner Initiative
5. Industry Leader Based Goal: Provide Synergies with other Industry Partners

With the start of the new school year, educational leaders are adapting to ensure schools reopen safely for students and teachers. Adjustments have been made to maintain social distancing practices from modifying classroom layouts to staggered class scheduling as well as hybrid/in-person models being implemented across campuses nationwide. Although we don't know the long-term effects of COVID-19, we do know that it has already had an impact on the conversations regarding school design for the future. Will classrooms be designed to accommodate less students? Will multi-use / community spaces be repurposed as classroom space? How will the integration of technology change, not only in schools but across communities, to ensure equal access for all? Will the flipped classroom model become more prevalent in a post COVID-19 world? Now is the time for our organization to step up and help lead these discussions. A great start is by joining us virtually on November 4-6 for our annual conference LearningSCAPES: Passport to Learning. Be sure to register today!

Another important date to remember is coming up. Regardless of your political affiliation, we encourage all members to head to the polls on November 3rd to vote in support of bond referendums that are on your local ballot. Due to COVID-19, a lot of districts lost out on the May elections, so the upcoming November ballot is critical more than ever! In the state of Texas alone, we have an unprecedented amount of bond dollars in the hands of voters to provide for new and renovated educational facilities that will benefit students and educators for years to come. Although some form of virtual learning is here to stay, in-person learning, and physical spaces are critical for student development. Please encourage your friends and family to head to the polls and ROCK THE VOTE!

As we all continue to navigate the year that is 2020, I encourage all of us to remain vigilant and positive. We are in this together and I hope you and your family remain safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Briar Glenn, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
 President, A4LE Southern Region

SCHOLARSHIPS



Sheri Offenhauser

Sheri is the recipient of the Southern Region Foundation Scholarship for the Advanced Academy.

Sheri is a Strategic Consultant & Planner at Page. She shared that the *“Advanced Academy for Learning Spaces will give me the confidence to do what I love most (and what drew me to teaching so long ago) - to talk to people about things I am passionate about.”*

Congratulations, Sheri, on earning this year’s scholarship!

CHAIRWOMAN’S PEN

It’s back to school time...well...sort of!

Since the last newsletter was published our worlds have all been turned upside down, and we all look towards the return of school for some sense of normalcy. For me personally, with a high school sophomore at home, a return to school is very welcome.

Through our Zoom filled months, the Southern Region Foundation continued working on awarding scholarships and helping recognize excellent school design. In May, we awarded **Sheri Offenhauser** the scholarship to enroll in the Advanced Academy for Learning Spaces, and work towards her ALEP certification. 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. The SR Foundation has made a **yearly commitment** to send a Southern Region member to attend the Advanced Academy and bring that knowledge back to the region. Some of our most recent graduates include Kent Brittain, Elizabeth Rohrbacker, Meredith Contello and Sita Lakshminarayan, among others.

In addition, the Southern Region Foundation’s newly formed Advocacy Committee participated in TASA/TASB’s Exhibit of School Architecture jury process, representing the region alongside Tim McClure and Dillon Brady. The process which has been led by our own Jim Brady in the past, highlights excellence in school design and planning. The SR Foundation looks forward to this partnership continuing for years to come.

Lastly, we participated in the North Texas Chapter Board Retreat in July and aligned the Foundation’s commitment for chapter events and initiatives. The Foundation Board is always excited to help support all the Southern Region’s chapters in their membership support and growth programs.

Here’s to a safe and healthy year!

Irene Nigaglioni, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP BD+C
Foundation Chair, A4LE Southern Region

What's Happening

Upcoming Events

November 16, 2020

Annual Sporting Clay
Tournament

Greater Houston Gun Club

GULF COAST CHAPTER

Even with restrictions, Gulf Coast is active and being productive! Working hard to make sure we stay connected and have events to look forward to!

We have been busy meeting virtually and in person.

- **This past summer**, the Gulf Coast Chapter hosted an Online Open Round Table forum for ISD members. The forum allowed for open and honest discussions on the difficulties encountered in the planning to reopen schools in the COVID-19 environment.
- **On September 2nd**, we hosted our first Zoom Happy Hour. Fun discussions, small break out rooms and an enthusiastic MC brought much needed social contact and networking opportunities to our members.
- VLK & Katy ISD gave our members a virtual tour of the new Gerald D. Young Agriculture Science Center and Rodeo Facility on **September 9th**.
- **October 14th**, we took another virtual tour of Klein ISD's Fox Elementary. This virtual tour was presented by IBI Group and Klein ISD.
- The annual Gulf Coast Chapter Golf Tournament at the Wildcat Golf Club in Houston on **October 12th** was a great success and a great excuse to get out!

Easy Foster, RTSBA, AIC, CPC, LEED AP BD+C, Conroe ISD
Chapter President



What's Happening

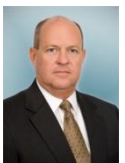
LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Our Louisiana Chapter of A4LE is moving forward despite recent developments and continues to promote growth in membership by hosting events to which anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

On Wednesday, **August 19th**, the chapter held the first in-person event since January 2020 at River Parishes Community College. The event started with a panel discussion that included LCTCS President Dr. Monty Sullivan, LCTCS Facilities Corporation Chairman & LCTCS Board of Supervisor Stevie Smith and RPCC Chancellor Dr. Dale Doty. The panelists gave an overview of the LCTCS System, public private partnerships in the ACT 360 Program and technical programs being taught at the RPCC Gonzales Campus. The panel discussion was followed by a tour of the Technical Training Center given by Dr. Doty where members were able to see state-of-the-art training equipment that you can find in petro-chemical plants along the River Parishes.

On **September 23rd**, the chapter hosted a “Furniture Showroom Crawl”. The furniture crawl went through the warehouse district of New Orleans, stopping at the AOS, Steelcase and KVV showrooms to see the latest in innovative Learning Environment furniture systems.

R. Todd Mann, AIA, PMP, CSRS
Chapter President



Chris Haslitt, AIA
New Member Spotlight

Chris is a Senior Project Architect for Chasm Architecture in their Baton Rouge office. He is a registered architect in Louisiana with over 25 years of professional experience, including a significant amount of educational specific projects for several school systems in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. He joined A4LE to be involved with the community of professionals that define and develop the educational environment/experience for the future.

What's Happening

Upcoming Programs

November 18, 2020

Building STEM Resources to Engage Students of All Ages
Virtual Presentation by:
Perkins&Will

December 9, 2020

Holiday Party
IMPACT Award Winner Presentation

January 13, 2021

COVID Discussion with Panel of Educators
Virtual Presentation by:
A4LE NTX Chapter

Past Programs

September 23, 2020

Creating Inspiring Learning Environments that Face Today's Challenges:
Resiliency in the context of School Safety and Storm Shelters
Virtual Presentation by:
Stantec

October 16, 2020

Annual Golf Tournament
Coyote Ridge Golf Club

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

As incoming President of the North Texas Chapter, my goal is to continue the collaborative culture of our Board to make great things happen not only in North Texas but also on an International scale. We continue to be trail blazers in the Southern Region and influencers internationally.

Our goals for the next year are to continue to grow our membership each month and become the largest chapter in the Southern Region. That will only happen if we continue to enhance the value of our membership. We have built a strong Chapter Advisor Committee made up of School District representatives that helps guide us throughout the year and challenges us to diversify our monthly chapter program and to bring back the Construction Cost panel discussion. So, we look forward to bringing that to you next Spring. We continue to be very proud of our School Studio and Impact Awards. This year, we are adding to our School Studio committee with participation to include contractors and product vendors as we expand our partnerships to numerous local school districts and look for opportunities to strengthen our collegiate partnerships. We are excited each year to increase our awards to local school districts through the Impact Awards. This year's submissions will focus on teaching solutions for COVID-19 distance learning efforts. We welcome partnerships from other chapters throughout the Region to help judge our submission awarded this December 2020.

Anne Hildenbrand, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP BD+C,
BRW Architects
Chapter President



Alison Beck-Maller, AIA
New Member Spotlight

Matt is architect in the education studio at Corgan. He grew up in eastern Pennsylvania and has been in Dallas for the 6 years since graduating from Penn State. During his time at Corgan, he has focused on High Schools, Career and Technology Centers, and Higher Education projects in North and East Texas. Matt really enjoys working in the education sector due to its scale – big enough to provide a wide array of design challenges, but small enough to allow the entire team to have a real, measured impact on the overall form.

What's Happening

Stay Posted!

The Board had a Planning Retreat for upcoming 2021 programs. Keep your eye out for invites in your email and the chapter/region website for updates.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

We wish everyone good health this month and the months to come. Oklahoma is working hard to get students back to school safely as our comrades in the region are also doing. We are hoping the learning process gets back to a more normalized pace for our students, faculty, and staff, but then again what is normal anymore. Stay safe out there!

Christina Hoehn, Guernsey Engineers
Architects
Oklahoma State Director



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Welcome, **new members!**
With the start of a new year and the focus to grow membership, we will be highlighting one new member from each chapter in our quarterly newsletters. If you are new to A4LE and would love to introduce yourself to the Southern Region, let your board know. We are pleased and honored to welcome you!

MEMBERSHIP

Our association's principal purpose is to ensure that our students have the best possible places in which to learn. Our members consist of practitioners involved in every aspect of school planning, design, equipping, operating and maintenance. We are dedicated professionals who want to share knowledge, best practices, and adhere to the highest standards and values in the art of delivering education through the intersection of learning and place.

Some of the **benefits** include:

- Unparalleled networking and establishing professional relationships with colleagues worldwide.
- Share best practices with fellow members – architects, facility planners, school district administrators, state and federal agencies, policy makers, manufacturers and suppliers via Members Forum.
- Participate in a variety of professional development opportunities.
- Upgrade your professional skills through our continuing education program.
- Access our job board, members' directory and other resources vital to your professional growth.
- Present at seminars, conferences, symposia and webinars to enhance your business relationships.
- Maintain real world competencies through accredited programs and international awards as well as the premier certification of the profession, Accredited Learning Environment Planner (ALEP).

Commercial Sector Memberships & School District/Public Authority Memberships are available. For more information on how you can become a member today, visit the website.

DISTANCE LEARNING STUDIO

A4LE continues to provide you with valuable resources and networking opportunities during this time of uncertainty. With the cancellation and postponement of our regional and chapter events this year, we have coordinated with some of our member firms and expert industry professionals to share their projects, information and research with you. These presentations will be topical, relevant, and demonstrate the best practices and innovative solutions that have been used throughout the world. Join us for the live presentations or access the programs on-demand!

Join us in these upcoming presentations!

DID
YOU
KNOW?

You can access free learning resources and webinars on the A4LE website by clicking on the Learning Studio?

The Knowledge Center provides helpful links to online publications. Check it out!

Additional Resources:

How to Reopen K-12 Schools in the Safest Way Possible: A Path Forward for Education on COVID-19

North Texas chapter member & President, Briar Glenn, participated in a webcast on the reopening of schools. Click the link to listen:

<https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/webinars/>

Interested in summer architecture programs for high school students? Click the link below to see programs at universities across the nation, many of them virtual.

<https://www.aia.org/pages/18291-summer-architecture-education-programs-for-h>



LearningSCAPES 2020 Virtual Conference
November 4-6, 2020 | Online | Worldwide

LearningSCAPES 2020 is going **VIRTUAL!**

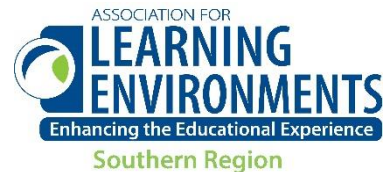
You are invited to join LearningSCAPES for three days of learning, collaboration and inspiration! Our online conference will offer more options to choose from than ever before, from the convenience and comfort of your home.

Featuring over 50 exciting sessions & a virtual trade show!

Click here for conference details and a full range of sponsorship opportunities:

<https://learningscapes.a4le.org/schedule>

We look forward to connecting with all of you!



Schools around the world are advancing the limits of public education by providing real-world learning experiences and opportunities for students to ask questions and problem solve, collaborate and gain experience tactile, hands-on work. This is a 21st Century learning approach where students are enabled, engaged and empowered through a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) curriculum, leadership and teamwork proficiency to master the 21st century skills they need to succeed in today's global economy.

Now looking for teams for the 2020-2021 School year competition!

[Register your school today!](#)

We need you to mentor next years teams! Interested in becoming involved as a mentor- [click here](#)

Find out what is happening in your local area:

[Arkansas Chapter](#)

[Central Texas Chapter](#)

(Austin area)

[Gulf Coast Chapter](#)

(Houston area)

[Louisiana Chapter](#)

[North Texas Chapter](#)

(Dallas/Ft Worth area)

[Oklahoma Chapter](#)

[South Texas Chapter](#)

(San Antonio area)

[Southern Region](#)

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Arkansas State Director
Wittenberg Delony &
Davidson Architects



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NCARB, REFP
Louisiana State Director
Holly & Smith Architects



Christina Hoehn
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Guernsey Engineers
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