



NEXT MONTH:

A4LE Southern Region Conference

May 6 – 9, 2024

**Waves of Hope:
Navigating Resilience &
Balance**

Hilton Galveston Island
Resort, Galveston, Texas

See you soon!

SAVE THE DATE:

**LearningSCAPES 2024
Conference**

October 16-19, 2024

**One Association for the
Success of Education**

Portland, Oregon

Registration now Open!

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Happy Spring Everyone,

As we come to the close of the first quarter of 2024, I am excited about the state of our region. We welcomed Easy Foster to the board as our next Vice President. We continue to grow as a region, and we continue to have a good mix of members from the public and corporate worlds. We are currently home to 1398 members, and still the largest region in the organization. We hope to continue our growth so that we can send a third representative to join Lisa Kassman and Gary Hutton on the International Board.

We stay busy as a region, with ongoing activities related to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program and with our Student Engagement initiative. We also have a Mentor Protégé Program that is helping to build the next generation of education environment planners. The Board continues to be a faithful steward of a healthy budget. Through this newsletter, ongoing email blasts, and the website, we provide communication of our activities and opportunities.

Every month the board has the privilege of hearing about the wonderful activities going on within the seven chapters that make up our region. The chapters are active and creative at engaging our members in many learning and social opportunities. Additionally, the Southern Region Foundation continues to support these same members through scholarship awards.

Our next big event will be the Southern Region Conference in Galveston, Texas. A location nearby where I live. I am extremely excited to get to see everyone in person for several days of learning, networking, socializing, golfing, and sporting clays. It should be an exciting time for all of us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel J Brewster".

Daniel Brewster, AIA, LEED AP
Principal, Texas Arcadis, Inc.
President, A4LE Southern Region

SOUTHERN REGION FOUNDATION Chairwomen's Pen

Hello!

I am certain everyone is having a busy spring given all the recently passed bonds. For us at the Foundation, that brings exciting opportunities as we get to see innovative projects come through the TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture Jury.

This year, the jury reviewed 46 total projects, and we were able to award 53 total stars as follows:

- 14 Design Stars
- 8 Community Stars
- 9 Wellness Stars
- 8 Value Stars
- 7 Planning Stars
- 7 Transformation Stars

There were three projects that earned the Caudill Class award, and these are being highlighted in a Webinar Series sponsored by the foundation. The award winners are:

ALIEF ISD

Jefferson Early Learning Center
PBK

Martinez Early Learning Center
Huckabee

Dallas ISD

South Oak Cliff High School Renovations
KAI Architects

You can find out more about each of these projects in the webinars [Southern Region Foundation Caudill Winners](#)

We are excited to welcome our SR Scholarship winners next week at the SR Conference in Galveston. In addition, we look forward to the upcoming Advanced Academy Certificate Program. Scholarship candidate will be announced soon.

Hope to see everyone in Galveston!

Irene Nigaglioni, FAIA, ALEP
Foundation Chair, A4LE Southern Region

CAUDILL CLASS



ALIEF ISD

Jefferson Early Learning Center
PBK



ALIEF ISD

Martinez Early Learning Center
Huckabee



DALLAS ISD

South Oak Cliff HS
KAI Architects

What's Happening

Upcoming Events

June 2024

Facility Tour, TBD

Past Programs & Events

April 24, 2024

Bond Panel Discussion

April 2024

Emerging Professionals Tour
Round Rock ISD

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Greetings all! I am Sarah Willis, and I am the 2024 President of the Central Texas Chapter. I have been involved with A4LE almost my whole career, and even remember it back when it was called CEFPI. I am so excited to be in this role after years of involvement in the chapter and on the board. Over the years, our chapter has cultivated a program to include enriching tours, panels, and social events to bring together our educational facility design community. This year started off strong with a panel discussion in January, and tours in February and March of St Austin Catholic School and Killeen High School. We will continue our year with a variety of programs aimed at engaging members across all sectors involved in K-12.

In 2023 we started a teacher grant and student scholarship program. In January we were able to award 2 very deserving elementary school teachers \$1,500 each to use in their classrooms to help improve their learning space for their students. The recipients of this grant were Jennifer Blackmon of Dripping Springs ISD and Jennifer Schuck of Lake Travis ISD. We most recently awarded 3 students to receive \$2,000 scholarships!

Sarah Willis, PE
Dunaway
Chapter President



What's Happening

Past Programs & Events

A very successful Winter Social Mixer occurred at St. Arnold's Brewing Co. in January and had the largest turnout to-date. Our chapter also held our yearly Golf Tournament on March 4th and continued our tradition of well-attended events and successful fundraising. Lastly, we continue to search for opportunities to provide school tours and relevant topics of interest for all our local partners.

GULF COAST CHAPTER

As the Gulf Coast Chapter welcomes the Spring season, we also welcome a season of new opportunities and partnerships. Last year was a busy and successful year for the Gulf Coast Chapter. Many of us attended the Southern Region and Learning Scapes annual conferences this past year. It has been amazing to see so many like-minded individuals come together over the same passion; "Enhancing the Educational Experience." We carry that same passion into 2024. We are extremely excited to be the host chapter, and we hope you will join us in Galveston this year, for our Southern Region Conference. The committee has been hard at work making sure it will be another successful conference and a wonderful experience for all attendees. We have no doubt it will be a conference to remember!

We have also been heavily involved in best practices discussions in partnership with the Associated General Contractors Houston Chapter, to be a resource for our local area school districts as well as industry partners. Our chapter has also provided school tours and roundtable discussions focused on topics of interest. We continue to host our primary fundraising and social events. We are happy to report that all of these events are growing in popularity every year. We look forward to the remainder of the 2024 year with optimism and a resolve to share and grow our mission. All that we do would not be possible without the support of our members and our collaboration with other A4LE chapters!

Brenda Garcia

Goose Creek ISD
Chapter President



GULF COAST CHAPTER New Member Spotlight

Megan Davis joined the Gulf Coast Chapter Board this year. Megan earned her degree in construction science from Texas A&M University. Following graduation, she dedicated several years to concrete construction projects across the United States. In 2008, she transitioned to the K-12 public sector, beginning her career as a project manager at Fort Bend ISD. After her tenure there, Megan explored diverse roles, including higher education, bank inspections and returning to the field as a school contractor.

In 2017, she re-entered the public sector as a project manager at Katy ISD, contributing to the successful execution of multiple green field elementary schools, comprehensive renovations and addition projects spanning across three bond programs. In 2022, Megan joined Waller ISD, where she was promoted to construction manager, helping to execute the 2022 Bond program by contributing her expertise to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by the district's growth. She is enthusiastic about contributing to the development of a thriving construction program in this rapidly growing district.

Megan has actively participated in A4LE since 2017 showcasing her commitment to staying connected with industry trends and fostering professional growth. She looks forward to deepening her involvement in the chapter, leveraging the knowledge she has gained to further contribute to her professional growth. With half a billion dollars' worth of construction experience under her belt, her career exemplifies a dedication to excellence, a passion for construction, and a profound impact on the educational and community spaces she helps shape.

Megan Davis, Construction Manager
Waller ISD



What's Happening

Upcoming Events

May 15, 2024

Afternoon Program
Navigating Topographical
Challenges for a
Transformational Elementary
School Design
*Memorial Elementary School,
Lewisville ISD*

June 19, 2024

Lunch Program
South Oak Cliff High School:
A Catalyst for Community
College
*South Oak Cliff High School,
Dallas ISD*

Past Programs & Events

April 14, 2024

NTX Chapter Board Spring
Retreat

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

I have had the privilege to be involved in A4LE and on the board for most of my professional career and am honored to serve as the current President of the North Texas Chapter. The 2024 year started off on a positive note with January's Kick-Off to the New Year Party hosted by CORE in Frisco, Texas. The chapter's annual golf tournament raised \$30,000 for Impact Awards, which were presented to educators and students from different school districts around the metroplex.

The NTX Chapter Board and At-Large Board is comprised of 26 passionate volunteers who spearhead the planning and implementation of chapter events and initiatives. Due to the NTX chapter's growing programs, board members will meet twice this year to allow adequate time for planning and organization across the year. In the Spring Retreat, the board discussed and prepared for the annual golf tournament, Impact Awards, continued engagement for emerging professionals, schools' studio, membership, and DEI opportunities. The focus of the Fall Retreat is planning for 2025 including discussions for board position nominations, chapter programs, volunteer opportunities, annual budget, fundraising efforts, and communications.

It is impressive to see what the North Texas Chapter and organization has accomplished and looking forward to continued growth and involvement from our membership!

Beverly Fornof, AIA, NCARB
Corgan
Chapter President



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

A4LE Pathways was held on March 2, 2024 at Dallas ISD's Career Institute North. This career fair event invited high school students to learn more about careers from professionals involved specifically in educational facility planning including design, engineering, project management and construction. Students were engaged and excited to discuss their hopes and goals for their own futures. A great success story from the day was a student that was not excited to be there (his mom made him attend), but once he spoke about his love for sports, math, and science, he connected with specialists to understand the convergence of those passions and left inspired for his own potential career paths. Thank you to DEI At-Large chair Roberto Ramirez and everyone that volunteered time to plan this event, and to all vendors that participated!

Emerging Professionals chairs Max Milan and Keil Senter have been hard at work not only planning chapter monthly breakfast and happy hour events, but also generating a mentorship program which will include both leadership roundtables and one-on-one mentorship opportunities to provide broader relationship building opportunities for emerging professionals. Additionally, the 40 Under 20 event was a summit for emerging professionals across the Southern Region to meet, discuss and learn more about educational facility planning. This year's event took place on Friday April 19th at the Irving Convention Center.

Volunteer Engage At-Large Chair Rachel Harrah organized a Community Volunteer Day by partnering the A4LE NTX Chapter with a non-profit organization called United to Learn. On April 6th, volunteers gathered to work on a special and much needed project for a Dallas ISD Elementary School. We are looking forward to the camaraderie with other A4LE members and being able to positively impact a local Dallas ISD campus!

To learn more about United to Learn, please visit their website at <https://www.unitedtolearn.org/>

What's Happening

Past Programs & Events

The Oklahoma Chapter hosted our fourth CEU Symposium on April 25, 2024 from 8:00AM-4:00PM. The event was held at Rose State College-6420 SE 15th Street, Midwest City, OK 73110. The event featured 4 CEUs, a contractor panel, exhibitors and a tour of the Rose State Tanenbaum and Center for Cyber Security.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

We want to introduce our new Oklahoma Board members:

Emily Chambers

KKT Architects, Inc., Tulsa
At Large Board Member

Angie Clarkson, ALEP

Larson Design Group, Oklahoma City
At Large Board Member

Andrea Durbin, ALEP

MA+, Oklahoma City
At Large Board Member

Jeremy Melton

WRA, Tulsa
Treasurer

Liz Rohrbacker, RCID, ALEP
KKT Architects
Oklahoma State Director



DEI Committee Updates

A4LE Pathways

Education Facility Planners Career Fair for High School Students



Earlier this year we hosted our EDI Pathways Event in the North Texas chapter. The purpose of this event was to create a career fair where we had individuals from different backgrounds and career fields host students from local high schools. With this we aimed to create a “circular mentorship” platform to educate and introduce students at a young age to the different facets of design and education. The presentation of those who attended offered students a glimpse into the diverse and exciting world of designing educational spaces. We had around 30 companies representing various branches of the AEC industry, who came together aimed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

The event took place at Dallas ISD’s Career Institute North but was open to the public. The NTX EDI chapter was committed to make deliberate efforts so that students from all backgrounds and locations felt welcome and represented. Despite the event taking place on a Saturday, there were about 50 students in attendance. Equally notable was the overwhelming support from parents that accompanied their children and expressed their gratitude for an event that provided such invaluable exposure and insight.

The most impactful outcome of the EDI Pathways event was the opportunity it presented for students to secure internships with the companies that were participating. These internships will hope to serve as a testament to the event’s success in fostering meaningful connections between students and industry professionals, paving the way for a future of skilled and innovative leaders in the AEC industry.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Good Day, All!

This school year seems to be going by quite rapidly; Summer will be here before we realize!

Our membership numbers have remained steady through 2023 and the beginning of 2024, with a slight increase in both the Southern Region and as an organization overall. Halfway through the year, our regional numbers are approaching 1400 members, and A4LE overall has surpassed 6000 members world-wide, including the Australia and New Zealand regions.

A great way to continue growing is for each of us to personally reach out and let our colleagues know about all the organizational benefits that are offered throughout the year which include professional development, tours, continuing education, accreditation programs, networking, and just plain fun! Better yet, be an example and show them the possibilities through your continued involvement!

Remember, school district members can add an unlimited number of A4LE memberships at no cost. Let's take advantage of this offer to increase participation from our public sector members. Over the past year, our regional membership has averaged around 30% from the public sector. It would be great for us to grow that rate to involve more school district personnel.

Hope to see you in May at our Regional Conference in Galveston!!!

John Haskew, AIA, LEED AP
Membership Chair

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.



DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

IS UNLIMITED!

School Districts & Public Authorities of all sizes can join A4LE, membership is unlimited* to every group regardless of school size. Start taking advantage of everything A4LE has to offer today with your whole faculty!

PRICE BREAKDOWN

Group 1 \$260

Student population of less than 10K
2 Primary Members
Unlimited Associate Members

Group 2 \$575

Student population of 10-60K
5 Primary Members
Unlimited Associate Members

Group 3 \$1,450

Student Population greater than 60K
10 Primary Members
Unlimited Associate Members

Individual \$155

Student \$95

Full time students majoring in areas related to educational facility planning or other areas deemed appropriate are eligible for individual student membership in the Association. Student membership shall be given and renewed only when accompanied by a statement from the student's academic advisor attesting to full time student status.



**SIGN UP TO
BE A MEMBER
TODAY!**

REGISTER ONLINE AT
A4LE.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

*applies to all PK-12 school districts, colleges, universities, departments of education employees, educational service centers and government agency staff. "Primary Members" are eligible to vote, hold office, and receive any hard copy material from the association. Allotted Primary Members, to be named by the district, will appoint as many "Associate Members" in the district as they wish. Associate Members will be eligible to receive all access to information, documents, electronic material, discounts, certification, etc. Individual members who wish to join as individuals and not be part of a group program may join as an individual member. All memberships are for a one-year period and are based on membership anniversary date.

One Association for the Success of Education

October 16-19, 2024
Portland, Oregon



Interested in exhibiting at LearningSCAPES 2024? RESERVE your exhibit space today! Register online below or contact Donna Robinson at 480.391.0840 or donna@a4le.org.

Become a Sponsor! Customize a Sponsorship Package to meet your specific marketing needs. Select a sponsorship opportunity that offers recognition and access to members and other attendees.

Questions? Contact Donna Robinson at 480.391.0840 or donna@a4le.org.

Schedule of events and registration information can be found at learningscapes.a4le.org.

SchoolsNEXT Update

Hello Southern Region Members!

As we look into the 2024-2025 competition year, volunteering and school coordination efforts are underway! Thank you to those who have already reached out and are preparing for next year's competition. We are shaping up for another fantastic season. For more information on SchoolsNEXT requirements and volunteer opportunities email Kate Lubrano at Kate@a4le.org.

If you are currently engaging students, K-12 or university students, in your chapter programming, let us know and we will be sure to share along best practices with the rest of our team.

Thank you again for your service, and congratulations to our teams!

Gabriella Bermea, AIA, NOMA
Student Engagement/SchoolsNEXT Chair



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 2024-2025 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](#)