



Easy Foster
President, Southern
Region



NEXT MONTH:
A4LE Southern Region
Conference
April 20-23, 2026

Innovation Unplugged:
Amplifying Opportunities
in Education
Renaissance Austin
Hotel
Austin, TX

PRESIDENT'S PEN

The Southern Region continues to move with purpose, momentum, and a shared belief that our best work is still ahead of us.

Over the recent past, our region has been anything but quiet. We have seen renewed engagement, fresh faces stepping into leadership, and a growing energy around what it means to design, build, and sustain learning environments that truly serve students, educators, and communities. From conversations that challenge old assumptions to partnerships that strengthen outcomes, the Southern Region has leaned into collaboration with intention.

One of the clearest signs of that momentum is the excitement building for our upcoming conference in Austin this April. Austin offers more than a great venue. It provides the perfect backdrop for what we do best: connect, share, and imagine what comes next. The conference will be a gathering point for ideas, experiences, and relationships that extend well beyond the event itself.

We are especially looking forward to the opportunities to connect outside the classroom sessions. Our Golf Tournament and Sporting Clay Tournament are more than friendly competition. They are relationship builders, where conversations flow easily and professional bonds are strengthened. These moments matter, because the trust built there carries into the work we do every day.

The Gala at the conference will be another highlight. It is a chance to pause, celebrate excellence, and recognize the dedication that defines our region. It is also a reminder that while our work is serious, it is also meaningful, shared, and worth celebrating together.

At the heart of everything we do is networking and the open exchange of ideas and concepts. Whether it's a new approach to funding, an innovative design solution, or a lesson learned the hard way, the willingness of our members to share openly is one of our greatest strengths. The Southern Region thrives because we learn from one another.

As we look toward the future, I am encouraged by the direction we are heading. The challenges facing learning environments are complex, but so is the collective expertise in this region. With continued engagement, thoughtful leadership, and a commitment to collaboration, the Southern Region of A4LE is well positioned not just to respond to change, but to lead it.

Thank you for your involvement, your ideas, and your belief in this organization. I look forward to seeing many of you in Austin and to what we will build together in the months and years ahead.

CAUDILL CLASS



DALLAS ISD
 Career Institute North
 WRA



DALLAS ISD
 Geneva Heights ES
 BRW



CAMERON ISD
 C.H. Yoe HS
 The More Group



HUMBLE ISD
 Kingwood MS
 Kirksey Architects

CHAIRWOMAN'S PEN

Happy Spring!

It has been a little while since we communicated, but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy! For us at the Foundation, Spring means webinars and scholarships galore, which is exciting!

We just concluded the Exhibit of School Architecture award jury process, with the announcement of the Caudill Class. This year, the jury reviewed 42 total projects, and we were able to award 106 total stars to some very innovative projects.

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

DALLAS ISD
 Career Institute North
 WRA

CAMERON ISD
 C.H. Yoe HS
 The More Group

HUMBLE ISD
 Kingwood Middle School
 Kirksey

Geneva Heights ES
 BRW

Our first two webinars highlighted Humble ISD's Kingwood MS and Dallas ISD's Career Institute North. Thanks to all who attended and learned about these amazing projects. Our next webinar is on April 2 at noon, highlighting Geneva Heights ES. You can find out more about it and the other remaining webinars at the A4LE SR Foundation website at www.a4le.org/A4LE/Southern.

Scholarship applications for attendance to the SR Conference in Austin this year are out, so please submit yours NOW! Announcements on winners will follow soon, so stay posted. Also, be on the lookout for the scholarship application for enrollment in the Advanced Academy, which should be out in April.

Hope to see everyone in Austin!

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Dear A4LE Members,

I am reaching out to gather your insights on our professional community to ensure we continue to provide maximum value to our members. I would appreciate it if you could share your perspectives on the following:

Current Value: What do you consider the primary benefits of your A4LE membership?

Future Opportunities: What additional resources, services, or benefits would you like to see introduced?

District Engagement: How can we more effectively encourage school districts to join and participate in the association?

Please feel free to reply directly to me with your thoughts (sylvia.fitzwater@arcadis.com). Your feedback is instrumental in shaping the future of our organization.

Best regards,

Sylvia Fitzwater, RID, ALEP, LEED AP ID+C,
Arcadis
Southern Region Membership Chair



sylvia.fitzwater@arcadis.com

Additional membership information available here:



ARKANSAS CHAPTER

On Thursday March 5 the Northwest Arkansas members of the Arkansas chapter hosted our second symposium.

We had 40 register and 30 attendees share knowledge about Innovations in Athletics. There were 10 sponsors, and the following attendance breakdown: 8 school administrators, 12 construction partners, 9 manufacturers, and 11 designers. We are gaining momentum and increased interest from the construction industry.

We are looking forward with ever increasing stress to hosting the Southern Region Conference in Little Rock in 2027.

Brad Chilcote, AIA
WDD Architects

Innovation in Athletics for Learning Environments Symposium

Location: Ledger Building in “The Classroom”



Check the Austin Chapter page of A4LE.org for more information about chapter grants and scholarships.



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Coming up in Austin:

Spring Social

Join us for networking and interactive activities designed to spark fresh ideas for learning environments

April 2nd from 4 to 7pm
Bouldin Acres South
2027 S Lamar Blvd

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
Enhancing the Educational Experience
Central Texas Chapter

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Amy Hayes



Megan Irvin

GULF COAST CHAPTER

We kicked off the year with one of our most anticipated events – the Winter Mixer at Saint Arnolds’s – which once again drew a great crowd. It was a pleasure to reconnect with familiar faces and welcome new ones. We were also excited to introduce our newest Board Members, Amy Hayes (Cypress-Fairbanks ISD) and Megan Irvin (Katy ISD). We are thrilled to have their leadership and perspective on our Board.

This year’s Golf Tournament took place on March 2 at Wildcat Golf Club.



We are also working on details for a campus tour, with more information coming your way shortly.

We continue to encourage emerging professionals to get involved, so invite any up-and-coming colleagues in your firm, district, or company to attend an event and learn more about our organization.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. I look forward to an exciting and impactful year with our chapter.

Sincerely,

Shannon Thompson
Gulf Coast Chapter President

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

The Louisiana Chapter kicked off this year with a Shake off the Holidays Social on January 20th. They're currently planning the next phase of local events and attendance at Southern Region.

For more information, reach out to local chapter leadership. Information available at the Louisiana Chapter page at [A4LE.org](https://www.a4le.org).

Upcoming Events:

April 8 – NTX Chapter Meeting at Northwest HS

May 13 – NTX Chapter Meeting at Lakewood Village ES

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Dear A4LE Community,

I am honored to be serving as the A4LE NTX Chapter President this year! We held a successful 2026 January Kickoff Event at the beginning of the year.

We were pleased to host this special gathering at the Lewisville Independent School District TECC-W CTE facility. The culinary students did a phenomenal job preparing and serving a fabulous meal for all attendees. Their professionalism and talent were truly impressive.

During the event, we proudly announced our Impact Award winners and awarded \$50,000 in grants to outstanding educators and students across our region. Supporting innovation and excellence in learning environments remains at the heart of what we do, and it was inspiring to see the direct impact of our chapter's commitment.

Congratulations to all of our deserving winners — your work is making a difference!



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

It is also with tremendous pride and excitement that I share outstanding news from our chapter regarding this past year's Southern Region Conference awards. I am thrilled to announce that two members of the Association for Learning Environments North Texas Chapter have been recognized at the regional level for 2025.

Max Millian – 2025 Service Citation Award



Max has been awarded the Service Citation Award for the A4LE North Texas Chapter. This honor reflects his consistent dedication, leadership, and meaningful contributions to our chapter's growth and success. His commitment to serving our members and advancing our mission truly embodies the spirit of A4LE.

Jason Millard – 2025 Distinguished Service Award



Jason has received the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his exceptional leadership and significant impact on our chapter through his service in multiple leadership roles over the past several years. This award celebrates sustained excellence, and Jason's dedication has undoubtedly elevated our chapter's presence and influence.

Please join me in congratulating Max and Jason on these well-deserved honors. Their leadership, service, and commitment not only strengthen our chapter but also inspire all of us to continue advancing educational environments across North Texas and beyond.

With appreciation and pride,
Tania Caudill
A4LE NTX Chapter
President

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

The chapter's first tour and presentation was held in February at the Bronson Brookside Library in Tulsa. Designing for Success: Empowering Educators to Maximize Learning Spaces explored how architects and designers can advocate for professional development that helps teachers integrate new furniture, flexible layouts, and architectural elements into daily instruction.



Chapter scholarship applications are due by **5:00 PM May 15, 2026**. Check the South Texas Chapter page of A4le.org for more information.



SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

AIA partners with the South Texas Chapter to hold a Joint Luncheon. The most recent one takes place March 24th.

JOINT LUNCHEON
THE STATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
 LEARNING, FACILITIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Dr. Brian Woods
 TASA Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy

Dr. Mandy Epley
 Navarro ISD

Dr. Scott Caloss
 Medina Valley ISD

Dr. Kristin Craft
 Boerne ISD

Dr. John M. Craft
 Northside ISD

Tuesday, March 24 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Rd.

Join AIA and A4LE for an informative discussion around the evolution of public education. How can facilities support learning amidst shifting expectations, rapid demographic and technological change? This moderated panel convenes district leaders, architects, and community partners to shape a more responsive and resilient future for public education.

This session has been submitted for AIA/CES Credit

EARLY REGISTRATION
 \$850 - District VIP Full Table (6 RSVPs)
 \$500 - Half Table (4 RSVPs)
 Sponsorship Opportunities Available
 Individual Tickets Not Sold At This Time



More information about last year's winners is available at the A4LE website!

SCHOOLS NEXT

The competition is in full swing! Upcoming dates are below.

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FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026
 School/District/Chapter/Regional Juries Convene. Specific dates TBD
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APRIL 11, 2026
 Regional Winners announced to International
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MAY 1, 2026
 Regional Winning Teams submit electronic submissions to the International Program Director
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MAY 8, 2026
 International Jury Day. Competition will be done through Zoom
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NOVEMBER 4-7, 2026
 International Award of Excellence Team presents at LearningSCAPES in Seattle, Washington

Save the Date – Learning Without Limits:
Alternative Environments for Tomorrow’s
Students

Early Bird
Registration
ends **July 31,**
2026! Sign up
today!

