

2014 AIA Nebraska Legislators of the Year Award Recipients

In 2010, the AIA Nebraska Government Affairs Committee established a biannual award to recognize outstanding legislative contributions to the profession and the practice of architecture by a member of the Nebraska Legislature. The Legislator of the Year will have demonstrated leadership and an active role in advancing the legislative priorities of AIA Nebraska. The award will be bestowed upon two Legislators at the AIA Nebraska Excellence in Design Gala on October 2, 2014.

Senator John E. Nelson, District 6



Senator John E. Nelson was elected in 2006 to a four-year term representing legislative district 6 (Central Omaha). He was re-elected in 2010 to a second four-year term. Currently he is a member of Appropriations Committee; and Vice Chairman of the Building and Maintenance Committee and member of the Supreme Court Commission on Guardian/Conservatorships.

“Senator Nelson has demonstrated a commitment to the value of architecture and the arts. His advocacy both as a member of the Appropriations Committee and on the floor of the Legislature has ensured public and private support for capital construction, including supporting seed money for Cancer Research Center at UNMC, as well as funding for the Museum of Nebraska History and Nebraska State

Capitol” said Sara Kay, Hon. AIA, Executive Director, AIA Nebraska Government Affairs Committee.

Raised on family farm east of Geneva, Senator Nelson has been married almost 40 years to Judy and has three children, Martha, Andrew and J. Braden. He has a B.A. from University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and J.D. from Creighton Law School. Senator Nelson has been an Attorney in private practice since 1969 with a concentration in areas of small business, estate planning, probate and Guardian/Conservatorships.

Senator Jeremy Nordquist, District 7



Senator Jeremy Nordquist of District 7 was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2008 and reelected in 2012 to represent Downtown and South Omaha, a diverse and thriving district. His interest in government started early, when he pitched in during his father’s bid for reelection to a city council seat in the small town of Beresford, S.D.

In the Legislature, Senator Nordquist has developed an interest in health policy and serves on the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee (Chairman), the Appropriations Committee, the State-Tribal Relations Committee, and the Children’s Behavioral Health

Oversight Committee. Senator Nordquist is also active at the national level, and is currently on the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Committee. He has also served as Chairman of the Health Committee for the NCSL.

“Senator Nordquist championed the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act. The Act provides incentives for redevelopment of historic properties across Nebraska, creates rural and urban economic development (jobs) and preserves historic significant buildings while revitalizing communities” said Lowell Berg, AIA, AIA Nebraska Government Affairs Committee.

Outside of his duties as an elected official, Jeremy works for the Holland Children's Movement. His interest in health care extends beyond his legislative work, as he serves on the Board of Directors for One World Community Health Center in South Omaha and recently completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration, with a concentration in Healthcare Administration, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He and his wife, Shannon, are expecting their first child in October of 2014.