



21 May 2024

2024 AIA Nebraska Honor Awards Jury
AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education
AIA Nebraska
335 N. 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: 2024 AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education Nomination of Stephanie Ling, AIA

Dear 2024 AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education Jury Chairperson and Jury Members,

As a current member of the AIA Omaha Board of Directors and the Chair of the AIA Nebraska Committee on Design, I am honored to be the nominating sponsor for Stephanie Ling, AIA towards receiving the 2024 AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education.

I have known Stephanie professionally and personally for many years and have had first-hand experience working with her as an architectural and design educator. Since starting her role as the Faculty and Program Coordinator of the Architectural Design Technology program (ARCH) at Metropolitan Community College in 2017, Stephanie has worked to shift the focus of the Architectural Design Technology program to better serve the AEC industry's needs for qualified BIM technicians and innovative design thinkers. With her leadership, strategic vision, curriculum authorship, and commitment to cultivating industry connections, Metropolitan Community College's Architectural Design Technology program has more than doubled in registered students. As recognized by her current and former students (2022 NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award winner), peers, and College leadership, Stephanie is dedicated to her students' successful achievement of their diverse goals.

Students seeking to become licensed architects can now earn their associate degree at Metropolitan Community College and then articulate their credits to Dunwoody College of Technology toward the completion of an accredited Bachelor of Architecture either through in-person learning or fully online (without leaving Nebraska). Stephanie has been instrumental in forging a new path to architecture licensure while staying in Nebraska, and up until this point, the only option for students to earn a NAAB accredited degree in architecture in the state of Nebraska was to attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. It is critical that students in Nebraska have additional options and opportunities to pursue a professionally accredited architectural degree and due to Stephanie's tireless efforts in completely overhauling Metropolitan Community College's Architectural Design Technology program curriculum and forging the articulation relationship with Dunwoody College of Technology this is now possible.

Stephanie's work with students at Metropolitan Community College is currently featured at Omaha's Kiewit Luminarium STEM Museum within 'the Cube' along with other impactful community organizers and leaders. Stephanie currently serves on the AIA Higher Education Advisory Team, which is a volunteer advisory team with a mission to advise, share, and promote the issues, trends, and aspirations relevant to architectural education that will improve and inform the future of architecture. Biennially, seven members are selected to represent six Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) regions and include an appointed Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs (CCCAP) representative.

I could not be more confident in my nomination of Stephanie Ling, AIA for the 2024 AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education. Her contributions to the education of Nebraska's architectural and design students and the profession deserve recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Miller', written in a cursive style.

Ross Miller, Assoc. AIA
Principal, FormGrey Studio

*2018 Richard Upjohn Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
2017 & 2020 Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow of the American Institute of Architects*

AIA Architecture | Design Educator Award – Biography

Stephanie Ling, AIA was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Her interest and love for design was fostered by her mother, Anne Peterson, who is a retired landscape architect who worked at HDR for more than 40 years. Steph takes pride in her winding path through and toward architecture education which involved earning college credits from 5 different universities in 3 different countries, a year of federal service in the United States AmeriCorps in Greensburg, KS, and experience working on lots of different types of projects throughout the design and construction process. Stephanie's approachable, flexible, and inclusive teaching style empowers students to forge their own path to success in architecture or in life in general.

Stephanie is a passionate and dedicated full-time teacher at Metropolitan Community College (MCC) in Omaha, NE. Since 2017 she has been the Architectural Design Technology (ARCH) Program Coordinator and one of two full-time faculty. Her strategic vision and leadership has reshaped the ARCH program's industry involvement, enrollment, learning outcomes, curriculum development, articulation agreements, and most importantly, the bright futures of her many students over the last 7 years.

Stephanie has been a student, teacher, and/or mentor for architectural design since middle school when her involvement with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Student Mentoring Program (SMP) gave her a first taste of creative problem solving through designing spaces for competition projects. Throughout college at UNO and UNL Stephanie stayed involved with SAME by teaching workshops, providing one-on-one mentoring sessions, guest speaking, and serving as a judge. Throughout graduate school she served as a teaching assistant for design studios at UNL's College of Architecture and taught Visual Literacy & Graphic Communications as adjunct faculty there in 2011-2012. From 2012-2016, Stephanie was a mentor and teacher to multiple award-winning teams of young women competing in the SAME SMP program with architecture and engineering solutions. In that time, she worked at Studio951, Encompass Architects, p.c., and Holland Basham Architects in Lincoln and Omaha and completed her AXP and AREs to become a licenced architect in Nebraska. Stephanie gained valuable experience in designing spaces for learning while serving as a project architect for the OPS Norris Middle School Renovation & Expansion project and several other community-focused buildings before recognizing her true passion to be an educator full-time.

Stephanie is an accessible leader in Omaha's design education landscape through her community presence and involvement in multiple organizations including the AIA, Nebraska Women in Architecture, Society of American Military Engineers - Omaha Post, Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs (CCCAP), Omaha by Design - Open Omaha and more. Find her featured in 'The Cube' at the Kiewit Luminarium along with 10 other impactful community organizers and leaders or on MCC's Fort Omaha Campus at the Construction Education Center.

AIA Architecture | Design Educator Award – Statement of Contributions

Specific instances of Stephanie Ling's experience, involvement, awards and/or recognition are listed below but the achievements of her students cannot be listed or quantified and are her most highly valued contributions to architectural design.

- 6+ years of full-time teaching experience at MCC including student-focused in-person and remote learning, leadership, strategic planning, industry outreach, student recruitment, and curriculum development.
 - Revitalized the ARCH program through major degree and course revisions to create clear pathways for completion of both Architecture and Architectural-Engineering Design Technician Associate Degrees.
<https://www2.mccneb.edu/programs/architectural-design-technology>
 - Developed BIM/Revit discipline-specific curriculum and recruited qualified AEC adjunct instructors to teach.
 - Realized an articulation agreement between MCC and Dunwoody College of Technology in 9/2023.
 - Established and current faculty sponsor for MCC's Student Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).
 - Excellent student evaluations and annual performance reviews from 2017 – current.
 - Organizer and presenter for the 3-4x/year Professional Industry Advisory Committee meetings to ARCH
 - Authored curriculum and innovative instructional approaches for BIM/Revit, architectural materials, building assemblies, industry and professional practice, construction documentation, codes, and sustainability topics.
- 15+ years of architecture or design-adjacent work experience focused on community and education spaces.
- 20+ years of demonstrated leadership, mentorship, public speaking, and community service.

-
- AIA 2024–2025 Higher Education Advisory Team (HEAT) appointment –
<https://network.aia.org/discussion/announcing-the-aia-2024-2025-higher-education-advisory-team>
 - MCC Screening Committee for a new Dean of Skilled Trades & Technical Sciences | Fall 2023
 - NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award. Nominated by current and former MCC students | Winner | 2023
 - Metropolitan Community College Commencement Ceremony | Grand Marshal | 5/2022
 - The Cube exhibit at the Kiewit Luminarium (STEM Museum) – Omaha, NE | Featured Community Member of Note for Architecture & Construction Education | 4/2023 – Present
 - Created a 1 ½" = 1'-0" physical model of a typical residential structure as a teaching aid example on display
 - AIA National, AIA Nebraska, AIAS at UNL/UNO | Member | 2003–2010 & 2010 – Present
 - National Conference | Attendee | 2018 – 2023
 - Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs (CCCAP) | involvement since 2018 | Member 2022 – Present
 - SAME Omaha Post Board of Directors | Director of Youth Members and Student Outreach | 2020 – Present
 - MCC's SAME Student Chapter | Faculty Sponsor | 6/2022 – Present
 - SAME Student Mentoring Program (SMP) | Mentor, Judge, Volunteer, Guest Speaker, Participant | 1996 – Present
 - Nebraska Women in Architecture | Member | 2010 – Present
 - Omaha by Design – Open Omaha | Volunteer | 2022 – Present
 - Metro Community College Education Union (MCCEU) | Union Member | 2022 – Present
 - United States AmeriCorps – Greensburg, KS | Member | 2009–2011

AIA Architecture | Design Educator Award – Summary of Supporting Materials

- **VIDEO:** Husted, J. (2024, April 20). *Kiewit Luminarium / Metropolitan Community College, Stephanie Ling* [Video]. Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/912130586>
- **IMAGE:** Stephanie Ling exhibit with physical model in The Cube at the Kiewit Luminarium in Omaha, NE
- **WEB ARTICLE / ANNOUNCEMENT:** *Announcing the AIA 2024-2025 Higher Education Advisory Team / Academy.* (n.d.). Higher Logic, LLC. <https://network.aia.org/discussion/announcing-the-aia-2024-2025-higher-education-advisory-team>
- **WEB ARTICLE:** *Remodeling Architect and Design Program, Metropolitan Community College – News Features Article –* <https://www.mccneb.edu/About-MCC-Nebraska/News/Features/Remodeling-Architecture-and-Design-Program>
- **AWARDS BOOKLET:** *NISOD Excellence Awards 2023 –* <https://www.nisod.org/excellence-awards-archives/>

Web Link: <https://vimeo.com/912130586>



Kiewit Luminarium | Metropolitan Community College, Stephanie Ling

3 months ago | More



Jon Husted

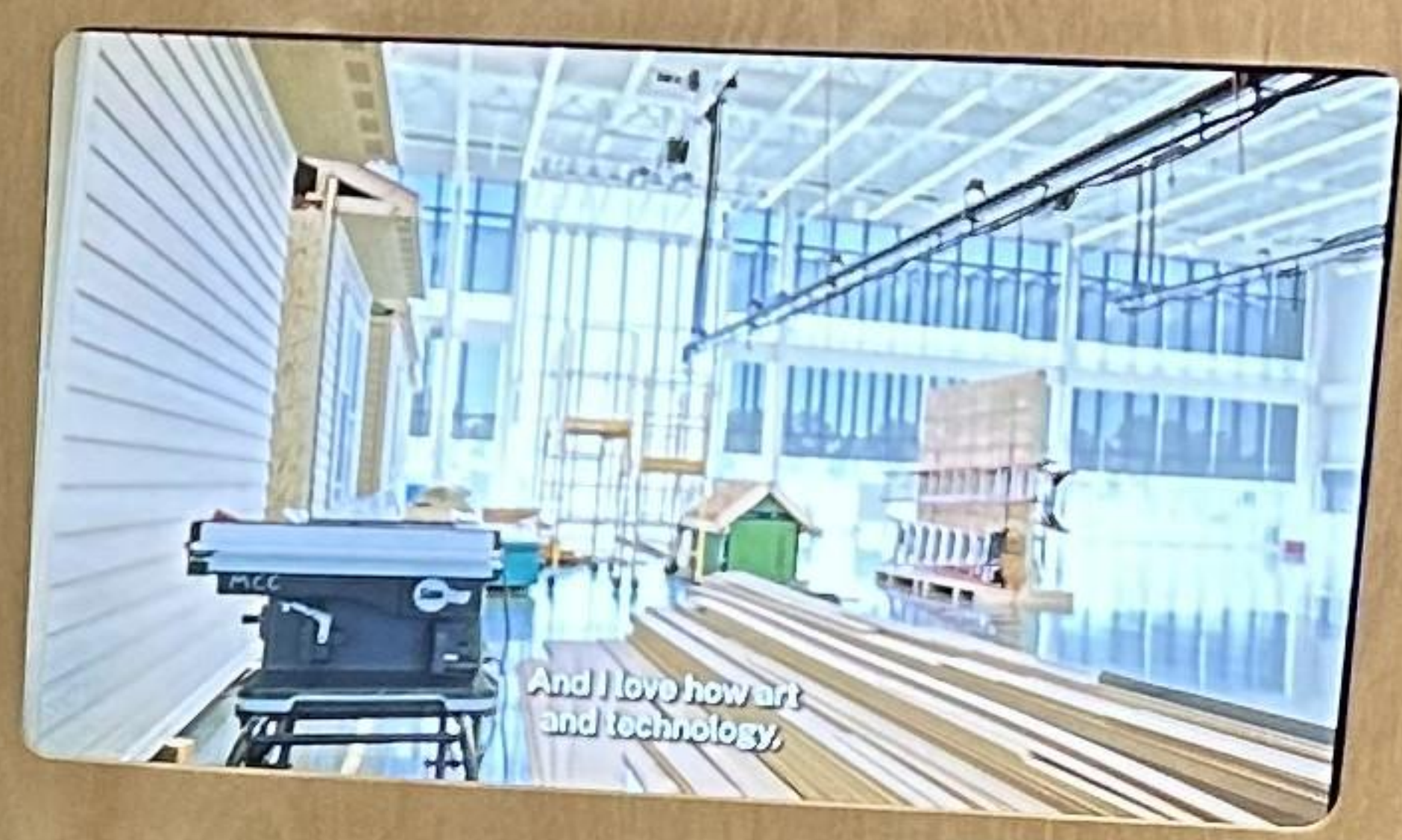
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Formar la fuerza
de la construcción
en Omaha



Stephanie Ling
Professor of Architectural Design Technology
Profesora de Tecnología en Diseño Arquitectónico

Learning about each layer of a house

The Construction Education Center (CEC) on the Fort Omaha Campus is a hive of activity. You can find student electricians practicing wiring skills in a lab, or a plumbing class learning to put pipes into a wall. Behind a row of protective curtains, welding students make sparks fly.

But Stephanie Ling's students learn a little about all the building trades. She teaches students in the Architectural Design Technology Program. When they graduate, they'll work as architectural technicians, translating high-level designs into detailed construction documents.

As a final project, Stephanie's students join those from other programs in designing and building a family home.

Aprender sobre cada capa de una casa

El Construction Education Center (CEC) del Fort Omaha Campus es una colmena de actividades. En la clase de electricidad puedes ver estudiantes que practican cómo conectar cables en un laboratorio o en la clase de plomería otros que aprenden a colocar cañerías en una pared. Detrás de una barrera de cortinas protectoras, los aprendices de soldadura hacen volar chispas.

Peró las estudiantes de Stephanie Ling aprenden un poco de cada uno de los trabajos del mundo de la construcción. Ella está a cargo del Programa de Tecnología en Diseño Arquitectónico. Cuando se gradúen, trabajarán como técnicos de arquitectura, y podrán elaborar documentos detallados a partir de diseños de alto nivel.

Como proyecto final, los estudiantes de Stephanie se unen a los de otros programas para diseñar y construir una casa de familia.



This teaching model is of a single story house detailing all the "layers" in a building, including framing, walls, floors, and roof. Courtesy of Stephanie Ling, Metropolitan Community College

Modelo didáctica de una casa de una planta, que muestra todas las "capas" de un edificio: estructura, paredes, pisos y el techo. Cortesía de Stephanie Ling, Metropolitan Community College



Ortho
Nebraska

Web Link: <https://network.aia.org/discussion/announcing-the-aia-2024-2025-higher-education-advisory-team>

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Announcing the AIA 2024-2025 Higher Education Advisory Team

I. Announcing the AIA 2024-2025 Higher Education Advisory Team



[Andrea Milo](#)

Posted 02-09-2024 02:20 PM

The AIA Higher Education Advisory Team (HEAT) is a volunteer team, with a mission to advise, share, and promote the issues, trends, and aspirations relevant to architectural education that will improve and inform the future of architecture. Every two years, seven (7) members are selected to represent the six US ACSA regions and include an appointed CCCAP representative to serve two-year calendar year terms (January-December).

Congratulations and thank you to all of our new members for applying and agreeing to volunteer your time to help the AIA further its connection to academia. Sincere thanks to our HEAT (2022-23) Emeritus members for your service and future input.

2024-25 HEAT Members

- Andrew Chin, Assoc. AIA, NOMA- Dean, School of Architecture & Engineering Technology, Florida A&M University
- Elaine Chow, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP- Elaine Chow, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP- Director of Student Professional Development, Clinical Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Buffalo
- Randy Deutsch, FAIA, LEED AP-Clinical Associate Professor School of Architecture, University of Illinois Urbana-Campaign
- Robert Fleming, AIA, LEED AP, NOMA- Director, Design for Sustainability, Design Leadership, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania
- Stephanie Ling, AIA- Faculty, Program Coordinator, Architectural Design Technology, Metropolitan Community College, Nebraska
- Kreg Mebust, ACUE, ASLA – Professor of Architecture, School of Technical Sciences, Truckee Meadows Community College, Nevada
- Brittany Williams, AIA, LEED AP- Associate Clinical Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, The University of Maryland

HEAT Emeritus Members 2022-23

Emeritus members have the option to offer input, engage in calls, etc.:

- Erlene Clark, AIA- Undergraduate Program Coordinator, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austin
- Thomas Fowler, IV, NOMA, FAIA, DPASCA- Professor and Director of Graduate Master of Science in Architecture, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- Farzana Ghandi, AIA, LEED AP- Assoc. Professor, School of Architecture and Design, New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)
- Jessie LaFree, AIA - Lecturer & Licensing Advisor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Marilys Nepomechie, FAIA, DPACSA- Assoc. Dean & Distinguished University Professor of Architecture, Florida International University
- Robin Puttock, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP- Assistant Professor, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Kennesaw State University, formerly the University of Maryland
- Malini Srivastava, AIA, DDes- Director MSRP & Assoc. Professor, College of Design, University of Minnesota

 Andrea Milo
 The American Institute of Architects
 Washington DC

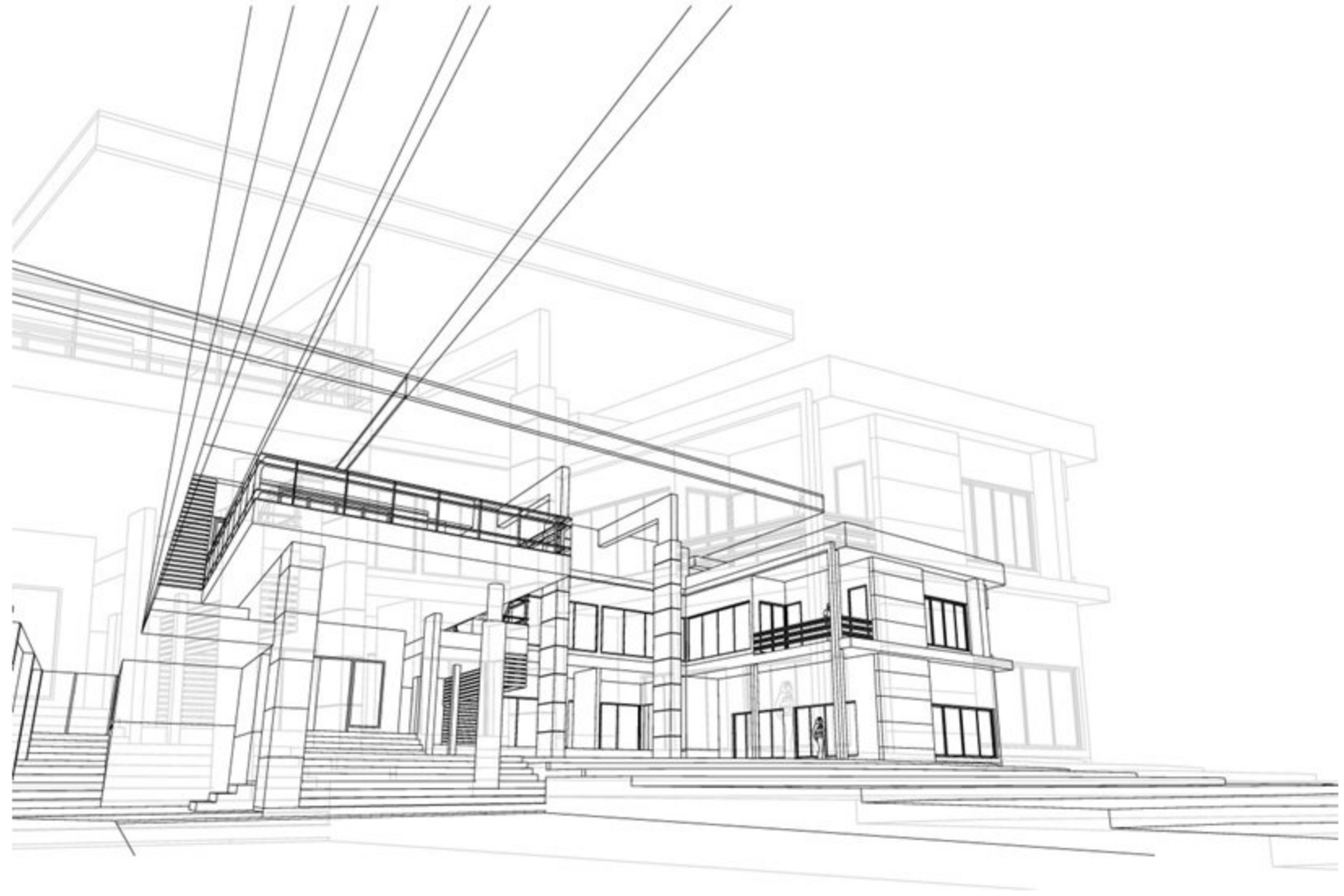


Home | About MCC | News Center | Remodeling Architecture and Design Program

Web Link:
<https://www.mccneb.edu/About-MCC-Nebraska/News/Features/Remodeling-Architecture-and-Design-Program>

Remodeling Architecture and Design Program

MCC ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN REMODELS PROGRAM AROUND INDUSTRY INNOVATION



CURRICULUM FOCUS MAKES PROGRAM ONE-OF-A-KIND

Metropolitan Community College students studying architecture and architectural engineering design technology will benefit from enhanced career-readiness skills through the College’s investment in building information modeling (BIM) curriculum. Starting this fall quarter, in response to local workforce needs, courses for the program’s two associate degree offerings will include a more intensive study on the digital processes and technology used to create and manage building design and construction.

Supported in part by Nebraska American Rescue Plan Act funding, deeper integration of BIM into its curriculum makes the MCC Architectural Design Technology program a one-of-a-kind offering in the region. A major differentiator is its curriculum focus on students developing proficiency using Autodesk Revit (BIM software) — a workforce skillset that has become the industry standard for preconstruction industries, including architecture and architectural engineering (structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing) fields. Because of recent industry-wide adoption of this technology, employers are challenged by a labor shortage of people who possess the knowledge and training to use it.

“We want to set our students up for success in the workplace, so we made this shift in our curriculum to align with the huge opportunities in the commercial and industrial sectors of architecture, engineering and construction industry, where the majority of new construction projects are concentrated,” said Jacquie Armstrong, MCC associate dean of Construction Education.

Under the new program structure, students who earn an associate degree in Architectural Design Technician (ARCTO) or Architectural Engineering Design Technician (ARCED), will have the option to enter the workforce to fill in-demand roles as BIM technicians or managers, capable of supporting the work of architects, engineers, manufacturers and contractors. Students can also continue their studies by transferring to another college to earn an accredited bachelor of architecture degree, which is required to become a licensed architect.

Along their path to an associate degree, MCC students will earn career certifications developed in partnership with local architecture and engineering industry leaders. Students who complete the architectural design technician program will earn a BIM Architectural (BIMAR) career certificate. Architectural engineering design students will graduate with either a BIM Electrical (BIMEL), BIM Mechanical (BIMME) or BIM Structural (BIMST) career certificate.

Armstrong said the multitude of BIM-specific certifications make the new MCC model one of the more unique ones in the nation, focused on the skills that create the greatest opportunities for employment in the field.

According to the Nebraska Department of Labor’s “2022 Labor and Hiring Needs Report,” 90.5% of respondents in the construction industry reported hiring difficulties — the highest percentage of any industry due to a shortage of applicants. Omaha-based architectural firm, HDR, one of the College’s numerous industry partners, has indicated a substantial need for BIM-trained employees.

The curriculum change, driven and designed by MCC Architectural Design Technology program instructor, Stephanie Ling, is informed by input from leading local industry professionals, some of whom have been contracted as MCC adjunct instructors and consultants for the program. One of the program’s greatest benefits to industry employers, Ling said, is its ability to retrain their incumbent workers to leverage BIM for projects.

“Growing our offerings in building information modeling is a recognition that this is the direction the industry has gone and that there’s a need for people with these developed, high-end skills,” Ling said. “When our students graduate, companies won’t have to exhaust valuable resources training them to develop these skills, which is the current industry practice.”

Ling said during their first year of study, students will explore the industry as a whole and the fundamentals of building design and engineering. Toward the end of that year, they will select which discipline they will concentrate on for their remaining credit hours and BIM training.

BIM skills are in demand in the workforce because of Revit’s capacity to accurately model all designed aspects of a building. This makes it possible to realize greater efficiency in design and construction through estimating materials and tasks, such as a building’s thermal and energy performance. Clash detection is another benefit to using BIM, Ling said, because it allows for corrections to be made prior to causing construction delays. Working within a collaborative 3D model, BIM creates cost efficiencies and enables easier coordination and knowledge transfer among project partners.

Additionally, the MCC program is working on a transfer articulation agreement with another higher education institution. After completing their ARCTO associate degree with MCC, students can then transfer to complete the last three years of a five-year accredited bachelor of architecture degree, which puts students on the path to licensure as architects. Typically, licensure through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards often requires a master’s degree in architecture, and Ling said no colleges or universities in Nebraska currently offer a five-year architecture degree option.

Salaries for positions that require BIM skills at the associate degree level generally range from \$54,000 to \$69,000 annually, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“We know from our industry partners that they need people with these new workplace skills, and we want to be the ones who provide this training,” Armstrong said.

Features

Decade of Opportunity

English Language Learning

Great Migrations

Remodeling Architecture and Design Program

SkillsUSA 2023

Fine tuning: Classically trained musician to mobile device maven

Nearly 750 MCC graduates attend commencement

Magic Moment

Prosper Academy

Destination MCC

Math Readiness

Positively Charged

Moving Day

Freight Farm

Culinary Odyssey

Holding Court

Jensen Automotive

Outreach Funding

MCC Celebrates

Commencement Ceremony

After losing 117 pounds,

MCC student wants to

'make a difference'

Health and Safety

Archived Features



EXCELLENCE 2023 AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2023 NISOD Excellence Awards Recipients!



A membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges.

A Celebration of Excellence

Aqua Raven Murray
Adjunct Instructor, English

Victor Wheeler
Full-Time Faculty, Criminal Justice/Corrections/Law Enforcement Administration

MINNESOTA

Northland Community and Technical College
Sandy Kiddoo, President

Kari Koenig
Director, Associate Degree Mobility Nursing Program

Heather Koland
Program Director/Instructor, Respiratory Therapy

Stephanie LeDuc
Academic Dean, Health, Public Services, and Technical Programs

Karen Znajda
Instructor, Nursing

MISSISSIPPI

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Jane Hulon Sims, President

Felisha Hampton
Program Coordinator/Instructor, Early Childhood Education

Northeast Mississippi Community College
Ricky Ford, President

Joseph Boren
Instructor, Construction Engineering Technology

Georgie Carroll
Director, Student Enrollment

Carrie Cobb
Counselor, Career Technology

Bonita Crump
Instructor, Early Childhood Education

Nick Jackson
Instructor, Information Systems Technology

Tiffany Johnson
Financial Officer, Foundation

Jason Miller
Instructor, Chemistry

Sherita Taylor
Librarian

Justin Treloar
Division Head, Humanities and Languages

Leigh Treloar
Student Athlete Success Coach

Ellice Yager
Director, Library

Sabine Zabarovska
Specialist, Learning Management System and Instructional Design

MISSOURI

East Central College
Jon Bauer, President

Stacy Bellville
Executive Administrative Assistant, Academic Affairs

Jennifer Higerd
Assistant Professor/Gallery Curator, Art

Alice Whalen
Director, Adult Education and Literacy

Christine Atkinson
Manager, Student Engagement

Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City
Kimberly Beatty, Chancellor

Asya Beasley
Executive Administrative Assistant, Human Resources

Dachia Busch
Counselor

Wendy Doan
Business Systems Analyst, Financial Aid and Veterans

Bridget Gold
Coordinator, Learning Assistance Center

Joan Gorman
Program Coordinator, Veterinary Technology

Kimberly Greene
Director, Campus Operations

Jessica Halperin
Full-Time Faculty, Sociology

David Johnson
Instructor, Fire Academy

Kaitlyn Kelly
Manager, Student Engagement

Brett Lind
Manager, Student Success

Zack McNeil
Instructor/Program Coordinator, Business

James Moes
Dean, Instruction

LeAnna Murphy
Supervisor, Student Services, Campus Business Office

Melissa Napper
Instructor, Computer Science and Information Systems

Victoria Rice
Coordinator, Campus Life and Leadership

Larry Rideaux
President

Stephanie Schoening
Lead Counselor

Clarence Smith
Instructor, Music

Deanna Snyder
Vice President, Instructional Services-Online

William Soloy
Instructor, English

Christal Waters
Manager, Student Enrollment-Online

Ozarks Technical Community College
Hal Higdon, Chancellor

Crystal Adams
Scheduling Supervisor, Tutoring and Learning Center

Sarah Bargo
Director, Communications and Marketing

Denise Douglass
Admissions Counselor

Jason Rader
Instructor, Diesel Technology

Misty Tollett
Adjunct Instructor, Business

NEBRASKA

Metropolitan Community College
Randy Schmailzl, President

Bernadine Cutsor
Adjunct Faculty, Horticulture

Jennifer Doorlag
Full-Time Faculty, Mathematics

John Ronald Johnson
Adjunct Faculty, Biology

Stephanie Ling
Full-Time Faculty, Architectural Design

Michael Rush
Full-Time Faculty, Human Services

Larry Williams
Adjunct Faculty, Video Communications

Mid-Plains Community College
Ryan Purdy, President

Mandy Flesch
Instructor, Nursing

NEW JERSEY

Bergen Community College
Eric Friedman, President

Mariella Spagnolo
Adjunct Professor, Event Planning and Management

Anthony Yankowski
Associate Professor, Psychology

Camden County College
Lovell Pugh-Bassett, President

Claire Berger
Faculty, English

Clarissa Coffay
Advisor, Educational Opportunity Fund

Jean (Ginny) Magee
Instructional Designer, eLearning

Behrooz Nazer
Adjunct Instructor/Tutor, Chemistry

Nancy Raftery
Professor, English

Nathan Barry, Ph.D.
Vice President for Strategic Operations
Metropolitan Community College
Omaha, NE 68103
nbarry2@mccneb.edu
531-622-4035

Dear Award Selection Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Stephanie Ling, AIA to be the recipient of this year's AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education. As the Program Coordinator and distinguished member of our faculty in the Architectural Design Technology Program (ARCH) at Metropolitan Community College, Stephanie has made a profound impact on the community, the industry, and her students since 2017.

She has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to her community. She works to engage students from middle-school age and beyond with the design trades of architecture and engineering having a special interest in attracting underserved youth, girls, and women. Her design expertise and collaboration with colleagues and students has culminated in the production of multiple affordable modular homes for the neighborhood near MCC's Fort Omaha Campus, mobile tiny houses, and more.

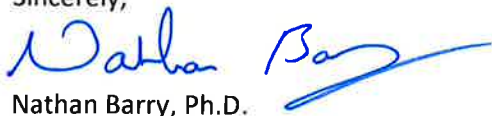
In the professional sphere, Stephanie is highly regarded for her innovative contributions to architectural design, curriculum development, and program sustainability. She frequently collaborates with industry leaders, ensuring that our ARCH program remains cutting-edge and relevant. Over the past year she has built two associate degree and four differing career certificate programs which serve the need for aspiring architects, engineers and BIM Technicians across the AEC industry. Because of this work, the architecture-focused associate degree program now has an articulation agreement for a NAAB accredited Bachelor of Architecture to Dunwoody College of Technology.

She is also a beloved and inspiring educator. She is deeply committed to her students' success, both academically and professionally and has consistently received positive student feedback. Her teaching methods are a dynamic blend of theoretical instruction and practical application, encouraging students to think critically and creatively. Many of her students have gone on to achieve significant accomplishments in additional educational pursuits, architectural design, engineering and construction firms, attributing their success to her mentorship and guidance. She fosters an inclusive learning environment that values diverse perspectives and encourages collaborative learning.

Stephanie's dedication to education extends beyond the classroom; she actively organizes and participates in organizations such as the AIA (serves on the AIA HEAT), Nebraska Women in Architecture, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Omaha Post and is the faculty advisor for MCC's SAME Student Chapter. She's committed to continual learning by attending local, regional and national conferences and public lectures and brings that knowledge back to the classroom making complex architectural concepts accessible to a broader audience.

In summary, Stephanie embodies the qualities of an outstanding architect, educator, and community leader. Her unwavering dedication, innovative spirit, and compassionate approach have left an indelible mark on our institution and the broader community.

Sincerely,


Nathan Barry, Ph.D.

AIA NEBRASKA ASSOCIATES AWARD

American Institute of Architects, Nebraska Chapter

335 North A Street, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Stephanie Ling, AIA for the 2024 AIA Architecture Education Award

Dear Jury Members,

It is my pleasure to endorse Stephanie Ling for the 2024 AIA Architecture Education Award. In considering the contribution Stephanie Ling has made to Architecture Education in Omaha, one can observe the results on a public scale, an industry perspective, from the institution's view and I will share my firsthand account as a former student.

She fills an essential role as a licensed architect with many current connections to the design, engineering and construction fields in Omaha, and Program Coordinator of the Architectural Design Technology (ARCH) program at Metropolitan Community College (MCC) in Omaha, Nebraska. In this capacity, she promotes growth in the industry by empowering her students to complete their associate degree and/or pursue additional studies. Stephanie shows her commitment to MCC through her dedication to teaching, and her continuing efforts to evolve the program in response to industry needs. She connects with students with her kind manner and practical approach.

I met Stephanie in 2019, as a student in the ARCH program, looking to improve my skills. Some of the courses I took with Stephanie included: Commercial Architecture, Detailing for Construction I & II, and Capstone Studio in which I and two other students helped produce Construction drawings for the project house that was built in the Construction Education Center. The entire experience of collaborating with other students, working within constraints from a client with Stephanie's feedback and oversight and finally seeing the project being built was rewarding and taught me so much. Stephanie Ling has been instrumental in my academic progress and my pursuit of licensure in Nebraska.

As an instructor, Stephanie created a friendly atmosphere in class, even though we were all on zoom; somehow, we all got to know each other and became friends in class, on the computer. She was always flexible and understanding as we all were navigating Covid, sheltering in place, dealing with city-wide power outages and spotty internet connections. Classes were always structured and packed with information. Whenever possible, Stephanie arranged site visits and guest speakers; some of my favorites were visiting a large multi-family residential project underway in Benson, touring the huge Applied Underwriters headquarters building site, hearing directly from a code expert and a presentation from local civil engineers at Lamp Rynearson. While exposing us to experts and a working job site, Stephanie taught and demonstrated safety, etiquette, and consideration. These experiences have helped me to feel more comfortable and confident when I visit a site professionally today.

The Architectural Design Technician program at MCC was timely, practical and gave me a crucial foundation for my career. Besides all the knowledge and skills, I also secured my dream position thanks to my Revit Instructor at MCC. In my current position as Designer at SCOPPA Architecture, I get to experience many facets of architecture through

working at a young firm. This exposure inspired me to pursue a professional degree in Architecture. Stephanie's encouragement helped me through my difficult first weeks at work, when I was afraid to touch the Revit model because I might mess it up. Her continued support and mentorship have provided perspective when I need it.

Even after my graduation from MCC, Stephanie stayed in touch with me. While attending the 2022 AIA National Conference in Chicago, she met Trevor Bullen, Dean of the School of Design at Dunwoody College of Technology and learned about their on-line Bachelor of Architecture program. Through her introduction, I was able to secure a spot in the second cohort of students in this unique program. I have just completed my second year at Dunwoody and am looking forward to resuming classes for my fifth year in the fall. In the meantime, I am preparing to sit for the ARE 5.0, PA exam this summer, through NCARB's IPAL program. It has been so rewarding sharing my school projects and successes at work with Stephanie, she offers encouragement and critical feedback when I ask and celebrates achievements with me.

As an ambassador for the architectural, engineering and design industry, Stephanie is constantly striving to make meaningful connections. She hosts quarterly Industry Advisory Committee meetings, where professionals and educators connect on topics and skills that are at the forefront in the industry. These meetings help steer the program towards current and future needs and provide a valuable bridge between employers and students.

Stephanie Ling has been such a valuable mentor for me during the past few years. Her support and encouragement have greatly contributed to the success I am enjoying today. I am so grateful for my own experience, and her dedication holds promise for future students too. Metropolitan Community College and the city of Omaha are fortunate to have Stephanie Ling as a driving force behind Design and Architectural Education. Omaha has always been a center for building and progress, and we need leaders like Stephanie, who value excellence, who are thoughtful and compassionate, and who have the courage and drive to push towards growth in the practice of architecture.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this deserving nominee!

Kind Regards,

Amy

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