

June 3, 2022

AIA Nebraska Jury

AIA Nebraska
335 N. 8th Street, Ste. A
Lincoln, NE 68588

RE: Nomination of Katherine S. Ankerson for AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural / Design Education

Dear AIA Jury Member,

I nominate Katherine Ankerson, Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) and Chief Academic Officer of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with great enthusiasm for the AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural / Design Education. Katherine has shown exceptional and sustained leadership in architectural and design education for over two decades at every stage of her career.

Katherine is an inclusive leader and educator who has served at every level of an academic institution from faculty (assistant, associate, and full professor), Department Head at Kansas State, Associate Dean of UNL College of Architecture, Dean of UNL College of Architecture, and now Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Kathy is the first architecture/design member to serve as the EVC at UNL. In this role, Katherine can continue to advocate for the design disciplines and the impact that spatial- and design-thinking have on teaching, research, and engagement across the state and beyond. Throughout her leadership roles, Katherine embraces the university ethos that “every person and every interaction matters.” This attitude and approach are evident in her educational and leadership style. While dean, she made a point of effectively listening and empowering people while advocating for each program.

In 2016 when Kathy returned to UNL to serve as the first full-time female Dean of the College of Architecture, she strengthened and galvanized our College through an inclusive and collaborative approach. She ran an inclusive strategic planning process which led us to clarify our mission, culture, and values. The process was highly successful, and the college continues to be guided by the strategic plan.

As an educator, administrator, and leader, Katherine continually empowers students, faculty, program directors, and deans to have a meaningful impact. Through her guidance, each cohort she engages is supported and asked to support each other. This approach is grounded in many years as an educator and leader inside and outside the classroom. Katherine brings a fresh and inclusive

approach to collaboration and interdisciplinary teaching and leadership. This was modeled in every role she has served, most impactful in her administration positions, which yielded an inclusive and innovative work environment. Katherine's leadership in academia and professional organizations is another sign of her commitment to leadership and having a meaningful impact. Her role in these organizations has enabled Katherine to participate effectively and brings insights and best practices back to her leadership positions.

In short, Katherine meets the award criteria, having demonstrated esteemed character and rendered distinguished service to the profession of architecture design or to the arts science in a Nebraska institution of higher learning. I provide my full support and enthusiasm for Katherine S. Ankerson to receive the AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural / Design Education.

I would be happy to provide more context to these comments if needed.

Sincerely,



David Karle, Associate AIA
Director of the Architecture Program
Associate Professor of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture
University of Nebraska

Sharon Kuska

Sharon S Baum Kuska, PhD, PE, LEED AP, Associate AIA
Professor of Architecture
Interim Dean, College of Architecture
College of Architecture
University of Nebraska

BIO

Katherine S. Ankerson, AIA, FIDEC, FIIDA, NCARB

Named 2020 IIDA Educator of the Year, Katherine Ankerson is Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ankerson is an agile leader and innovative problem solver, award-winning author, and a strong proponent of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary engagement. Prior to her current appointment at the University, she was Professor and Dean of the College of Architecture at the UNL. As Dean, she led an ecosystem of inclusive innovation, respecting and celebrating the differences and excellence in each discipline. Her leadership demonstrates a long-ranging breadth of commitment and impact across multiple universities and organizations.

Prior to serving as dean, she spent five years as Department Head of Interior Architecture & Product Design in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design at Kansas State University. From 1996 to 2011, she taught in interior design with the UNL College of Architecture and then served for three years as associate dean in the college. Ankerson has also held academic positions at Radford University in Virginia and Washington State University after spending many years as a practicing architect and designer.

An architect and designer, Ankerson is a strong proponent of design education. She believes in the potency of interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary engagement, the value of design and making, and the embracing of new technologies in addition to strengthening traditional design tools. Ankerson's philosophy is that design education must prepare global design citizens who take leadership to foster synergy, embrace successful collaboration and recognize interconnectedness, with an awareness of the responsibility of individual and collective actions in personal, social and environmental arenas.

She is an award-winning author having earned the 2013 Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) Book Award for her *Illustrated Codes of Designers: Residential* and the 2013 IDEC Media Award for her collaborative web-based resource *Lighting Across the [Design] Curriculum*. As the lead of the 20th Anniversary Nuckolls Lighting Grant, she worked with nine other educators in architecture, engineering and interior design, representing four major universities, to initiate and produce the online resource.

Ankerson has served on multiple state, regional and national design award juries for various professional organizations. She is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and served as the College of Architecture representative to the AIA Nebraska Board of Directors, on the AIA Foundation Board, as well as the Capitol Commission. She is a licensed architect in Washington and Nebraska and holds a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) certificate. Additionally, she served a three-year term of elected presidential leadership with the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), led the Board of Directors for the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), and is a professional member of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

On a personal note, she was a first-generation student with limited resources throughout college, and started her career in Spokane, Washington then to Houston, Texas, and back to the Northwest where she had a small architecture, design, and design-build firm. She earned a BS Architectural Studies (1978), Bachelor of Architecture (1979), and MS Architecture (1994) all from Washington State University.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ITS FUTURE

Physical Environment

Architecture Hall must provide a canvas for transformative professional education to occur. During her time as Dean, Ankerson successfully gained funding to support:

2017: Commissioned Explorations

2018-19: Programming (internal)

2020-21: Renovation of Library/Studios

2021: Success at LB384 + other funding

2022-23: Renovation of Arch Hall West and removal of stacks + new addition.



Images by APMA; 3rd Floor Studio Space; 1st Floor Learning Commons

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ITS FUTURE

Professional Advisory Council

Asking “what if,” assessing potential risks and rewards, exploring alternatives, turning the problem inside out while still considering multiple implications. These are attributes of the creative process inherent to Ankerson's leadership and administrative style. Whether creating a multi-disciplinary design/build firm foreshadowing current professional practice models; initiating progressive partnerships at Kansas State University; or leading the UNL College of Architecture from the results of a proposed merger into excellence, growing and thriving; each presents an aspect of her experience successfully propelling toward the future by recognizing and harnessing strength and potential, and being fearless.

During 2021, she unveiled a new working model for the College's Professional Advisory Council, abandoning the static information-sharing model to an active participation working group model focused on six important areas members have the expertise and resources to make impact, and the college is already benefiting from results of the embodied synergy.

- Innovative Student Development
- Outreach & Impact
- Impactful Partnerships
- Philosophy of Design Informed by Technology & Data
- Our Story
- Global Experiences & Opportunities

The PAC is a rich array of professionals who bring diverse and important perspectives to impact the college's future.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ITS FUTURE

Strategic Planning

Effective process design and leadership in creating the College of Architecture Strategic Plan yielded important consensus on critical aspirations and cultural attributes defining and differentiating the college. Formulated by a group of over 50 stakeholders, the College's strategic plan is an active and living document, referenced by many in her 5-year administrative review as evidence of effective leadership and pivotal to the college's future.

Serving on the N | 150 Commission Executive Committee and Mission and Values team, as well as the strategy team to guide development of the N2025 Strategy Blueprint created and coalesced the collective aspiration and wisdom of the university's faculty, students, staff, constituents and leaders, shaping a course for an extended future. The N2025 Plan sets the University's path for five years, providing opportunity for the diverse academic units such as the College of Architecture, to positively contribute to a collective future in tangible ways across the land grant mission.

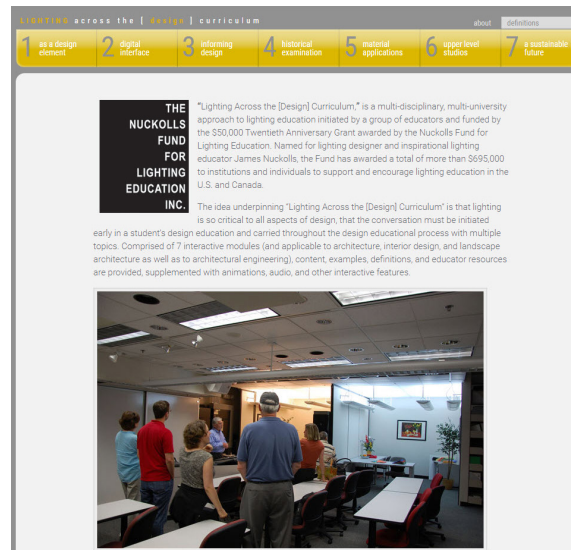
Strategic planning is not new to Ankerson, she was integrally involved in visioning the Interdisciplinary Design Institute for Washington State University in the early 1990's; and on the college team at Radford University who developed the strategic plan in the mid-90's that was subsequently used as an example at other universities. Bringing design-thinking and -process to a broader academic environment is a contribution benefiting the future of the professions.

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN TEACHING

Award of the **20th Anniversary Nuckolls Lighting Fund Grant (\$50,000)** in 2010 for "Lighting Across the [Design] Curriculum" is another example of quality of cross-disciplinary innovation and excellence. Ankerson brought together and led ten faculty from four major universities (University of Nebraska, Miami University of Ohio, Kansas State University, and The University of Texas at Austin) and multiple disciplines (Interior Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture, Electrical Engineering) to develop this series of seven modules that introduce an awareness of the contribution of lighting to basic design issues, to advanced decisions that include energy impact with quality of lighting. The seven modules are freely available through the Nuckolls Fund website.

Often, the introduction to lighting in a design/architectural/engineering curriculum is addressed through a "lighting class." The collective teaching experience and observation of students indicated to the team that extending that introduction and learning across the curriculum of a design education could enrich students' awareness of the impact of light and how it affects other design attributes throughout the design process and beyond. The team wanted to expose students to the qualities of light early in their education and to scaffold additional knowledge throughout the years of their education, not to replace the lighting class but rather to supplement and strengthen it. This work was recognized with the 2013 IDEC Media Award, given for recognition of the content of an outstanding visual media piece that exhibits excellence in addressing

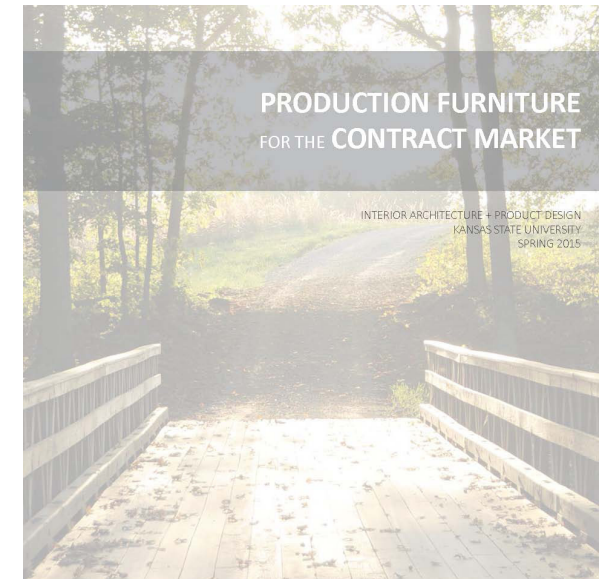
issues of the discipline of interior design including practice, research and education. According to the selection committee, the site "is very graphically appealing, showing lighting in a physical model, coupled with text to help students understand more fully. ... The website is very easy to navigate and provides a multitude of information from basic to advanced topics."



OFS Brands and "**Production Furniture for the Contract Market**" illustrates an additional example of excellence in innovation and education in the cross-disciplinary realm occur during Ankerson's tenure as Department Head of Interior Architecture & Product Design (IAPD) at Kansas State University.

As co-initiator (with Doug Shapiro, OFS; Adam Stover, Populous; Amie Keener, Gensler) of the course, Ankerson co-taught and developed a novel sharing of potential revenues, brokering between the intellectual property office of KSU, OFS, and the University system. This model has produced furniture pieces, designed

by students, that are in production by OFS. The joint efforts were the brainchild of IAPD advisory board members Stover and Keener and result in a new model for education, only possible through the teamwork and effective synergy of the participants.



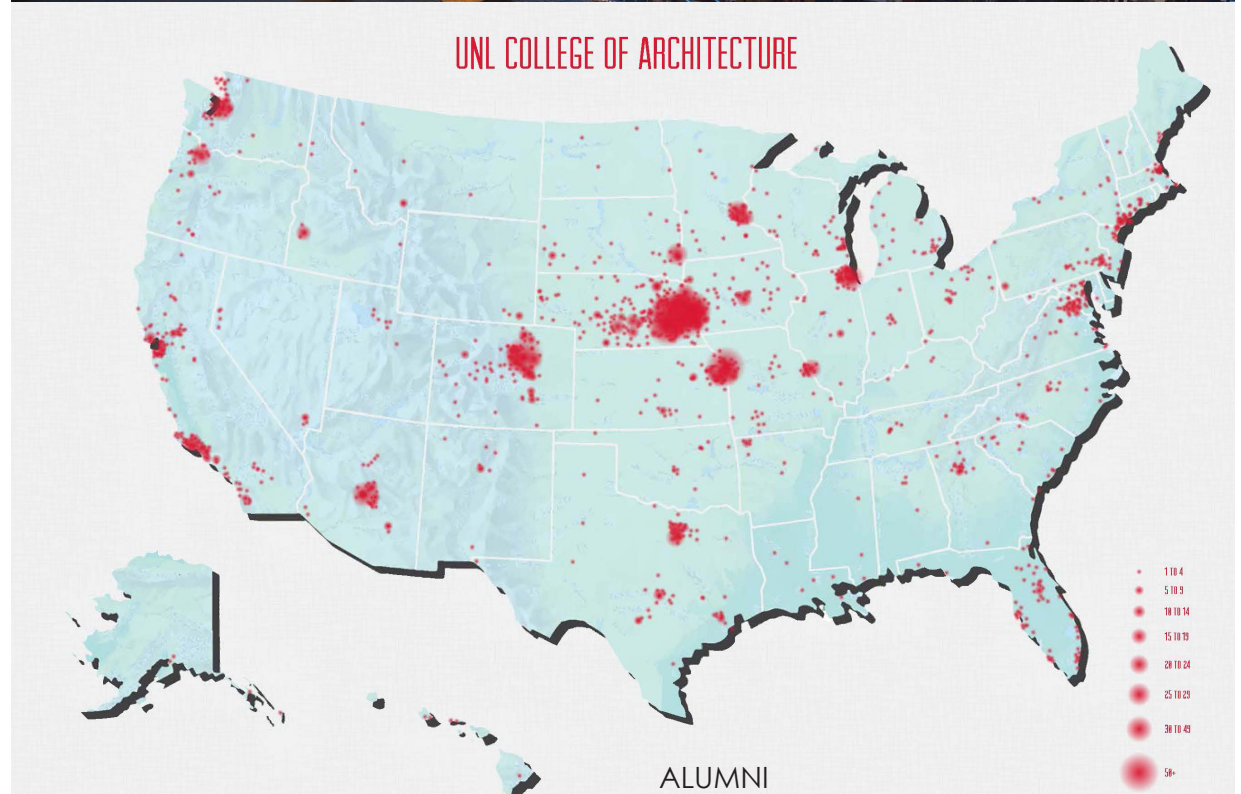
The **HDR Healthcare Design Studio** (winner of the CIDA Innovations in Interior Design Education Merit Award in 2010 with co-authors Peter Hind and Sheila Elijah-Barnwell), partnered design educators and non-faculty practitioners, healthcare professionals, and medical experts to elevate evidence-based design, collaboration, and a healthcare conceptual underpinning. Working in a cross-disciplinary manner as faculty, we first tackled language meaning as used in each discipline, arriving at a common understanding to build from. The process was furthered through the use of Clifton Strengthfinder focus on strengths in developing effective teams of students.

FOSTERING ALUMNI CONNECTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS



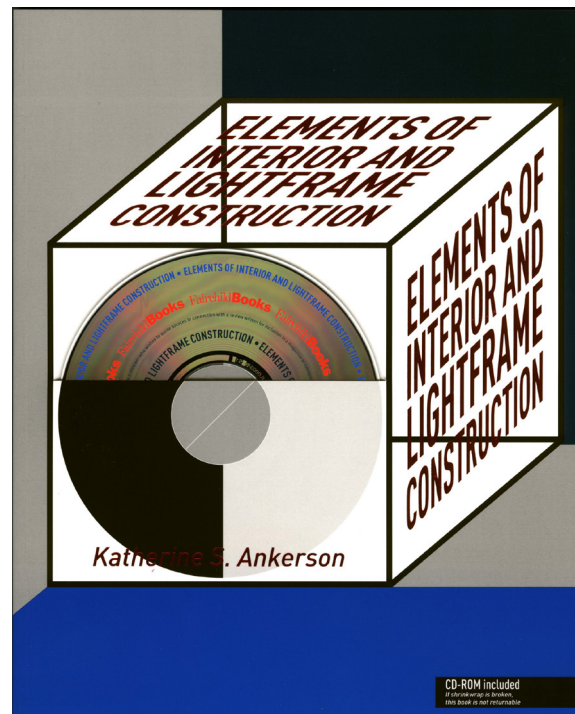
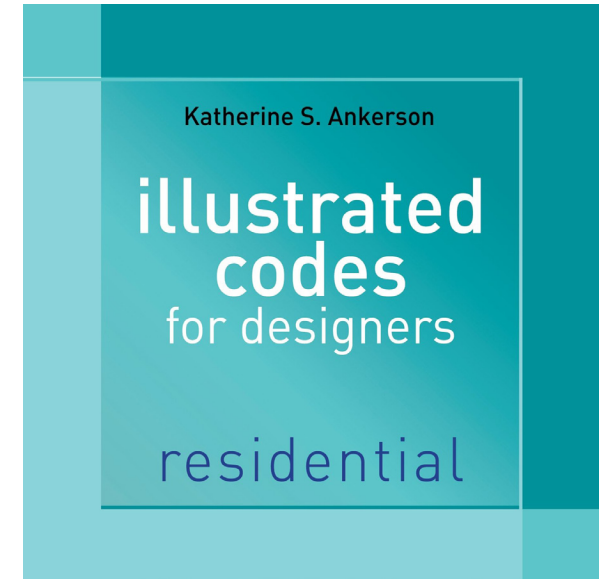
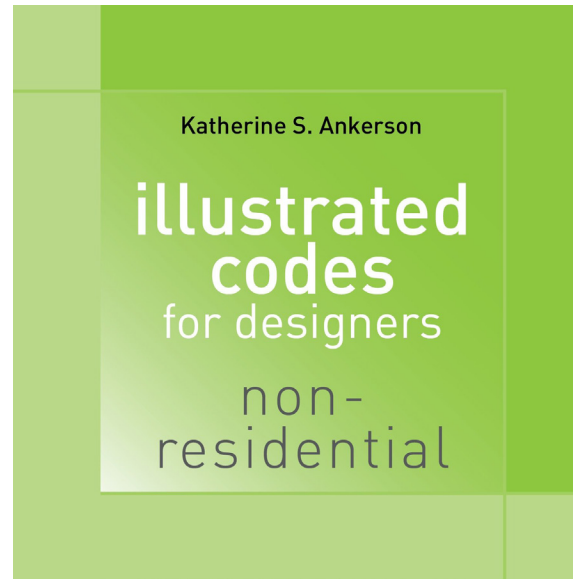
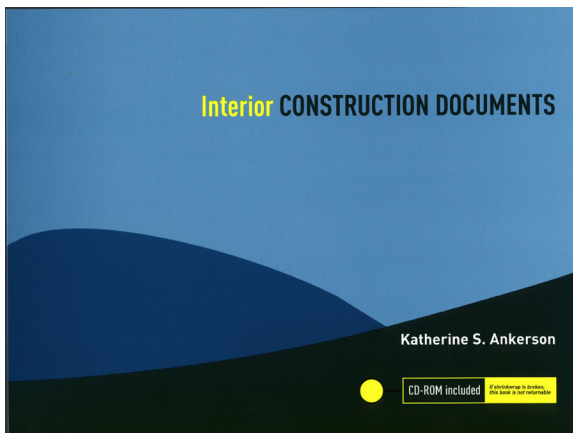
for Excellence, AIA/ACSA Practice + Leadership Award, CELA Senior Research & Creative Activity Award, ACSP Chester Rapkin Award, P/A Citation Award, AIA Fellow, IIDA Fellow, IIDA Educator of the Year, and the 2021 IDEC Teaching Excellence Award.

Our faculty have authored four books; and have written ten book chapters, forwards and essays. Faculty have garnered ten national or international juried design excellence awards or exhibits; in addition to thirteen state or regional design excellence awards. They have been recognized with eleven national or international awards of excellence for research, scholarship, or creative activity. This summary does not reflect the plethora of peer-reviewed scholarly academic journal articles published by our faculty. Our research has been supported through external funding exceeding \$1.23 million in total sponsored awards during this period.



INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Two textbooks: Interior Construction Documents (2004) and Elements of Interior and Lightframe Construction (2003) by Fairchild Books, a division of Condé Nast Publications, Inc., New York, NY authored by Ankerson exemplify integration of the effective use of digital media in various capacities in the education process. The textbooks were each published in a digital form (on CD-Rom) and accompanied by a student workbook. This represented a significant departure from the publishing norm of the time (2001, 2003), when textbooks were print, and a CD-Rom perhaps included as supplemental material. The works are a result of the integration of Ankerson's professional practice and experience, investigation into teaching and learning strategies for the design fields, research regarding the professional competencies of effectiveness of computer simulation and animation in the learning realm.



Following work accomplished through the Cecil M. Steward Professorship and collaboration with Bill Borner to use technology to develop a digital teaching and learning tool for codes, Illustrated Codes for Designers: Residential (2012, winner 2013 IDEC Book Award) and Illustrated Codes for Designers: Non-Residential (2013) were created as interactive DVDs that equip design students with the knowledge needed to work within the laws, codes, regulations, and standards that apply to residential and non-residential environments. They explain how codes relate to safety, accessibility, and more and must be integrated into the design process at various stages. Based on the 2009 International Residential Code and the 2009 International Building Code, with many North American standards addressed as well, the DVDs create an active learning environment where students learn to use codes as an integral part of the design process. Both of these books were reviewed and co-branded by the International Code Council.

APPOINTMENT AS UNL EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

5/28/22, 4:47 PM Ankerson named Nebraska's new executive vice chancellor | Nebraska Today | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



January 10, 2022 - 4 min read

Ankerson named Nebraska's new executive vice chancellor

by [Troy Feddersen](#) | University Communication and Marketing | [/written-by/troy-feddersen-university-communication-and-marketing/](#)



Katherine Ankerson

[/Craig Chandler](#) | University Communication

Katherine Ankerson, an academic leader who directed a revitalization of the College of Architecture, has been named the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's next executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Selected through an internal search, Ankerson will assume the new role on Jan. 18, the first day of the university's spring semester.

<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/ankerson-named-nebraska-s-new-executive-vice-chancellor/>

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5/28/22, 4:47 PM Ankerson named Nebraska's new executive vice chancellor | Nebraska Today | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

"Kathy is the right leader at the right time for this very important role," Chancellor Ronnie Green said in a Jan. 10 announcement to campus. "She is a collaborative, inclusive and strategic leader who will take a 'what if' approach into this vital role for our academic mission and help propel us forward."

An award-winning author and leader in design education, Ankerson has served as dean of the College of Architecture since July 2016. She was previously a professor and head of interior architecture and product design at Kansas State University and served as a professor and associate dean at Nebraska from 1996 to 2011.

Under her leadership as dean, the College of Architecture has prospered, particularly in faculty achievement and student success. Key metrics include 24% of architecture faculty being recognized with the highest academic and professional honors; improving the six-year graduation rate from 50.9% to 71.9%; and the five-year employment rate for graduates of the college ranging between 95% and 100%.

She also played an active role on the university's N150 Commission and the N2025 Steering Committee, helping shape the vision and strategic goals of the institution.

"I am honored, humbled and excited by this opportunity to lead Nebraska's academic enterprise," Ankerson said. "Our university is a place where every person and every interaction matters. I look forward to building upon our shared momentum, our unwavering belief in the transformational power of education, and our ability to effect positive change in this world."

Ankerson, the International Interior Design Association's 2020 Educator of the Year, advocates for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary engagement, the value of design and making, and embracing new technologies to strengthen traditional design tools. Her leadership is focused on elevating inclusive innovation and celebrating the differences and excellence across academic disciplines.

She led the 20th Anniversary Nuckolls Lighting grant, which included nine educators in architecture, interior design, engineering and lighting design, and represented four major universities. The project produced the award-winning web-based Lighting Across the (Design) Curriculum.

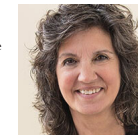
<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/ankerson-named-nebraska-s-new-executive-vice-chancellor/>

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5/28/22, 4:47 PM Ankerson named Nebraska's new executive vice chancellor | Nebraska Today | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

An architect and designer, Ankerson has held academic positions at Radford University and Washington State University. She received a master's degree, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Architecture from Washington State University.

Sharon Kuska has been named interim dean (<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/kuska-named-interim-dean-of-architecture/>) of the College of Architecture. A Nebraska alumna, Kuska has served as a faculty member in the college for 35 years and, since 2018, has been associate dean for faculty and academic programs.



<https://news.unl.edu/sites/default/files/media/2022/01/sharonkuska-unl.jpg>
Sharon Kuska

Details on a search for a new dean for the college will be announced.

Nebraska's executive vice chancellor reports directly to the chancellor, is the chief academic officer and is the responsible authority in the absence of the chancellor. The position leads and coordinates the university's academic enterprise. The university's academic deans, other than those in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, report directly to the executive vice chancellor.

Bob Wilhelm, vice chancellor for research and economic development, has served as the interim executive vice chancellor since Nov. 20. Elizabeth Spiller held the position previously.

The search committee was led by co-chairs Sherri Jones, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences; and Steve Kolbe, president of the Faculty Senate and associate professor in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.

[Learn more about Nebraska's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor.](#) (<https://executivevc.unl.edu/>)

SHARE

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<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/ankerson-named-nebraska-s-new-executive-vice-chancellor/>

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IN OUR
GRIT
OUR
GLORY

GLORY

An award-winning author and leader in design education, Katherine Ankerson began her appointment as executive vice chancellor in January 2022 after serving as dean of the College of Architecture at Nebraska since 2016.

She was previously a professor and head of interior architecture and product design at Kansas State University and served as a professor and associate dean at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1996 to 2011.

The International Interior Design Association's 2020 Educator of the Year, Ankerson is focused on elevating inclusive innovation and celebrating the differences and excellence across academic disciplines. Ankerson led the 20th Anniversary Nuckolls Lighting grant, which included nine educators in architecture, interior design, engineering and lighting design, and represented four major universities. She completed a three-year term of elected presidential leadership with the North America's Interior Design Educators Council.

An architect and designer, Ankerson has also held academic positions at Radford University and Washington State University. Ankerson received a master's degree, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Architecture from Washington State University.



INDIVIDUAL HONORS, AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS (5 yrs)

As dean, it was important to contribute to the broader profession, professional organizations, and the university community. Since July 1, 2016 Ankerson's personal commitment and activity have included (in addition to typical activities and university membership expected of Deans such as the Academic Leadership Council, and Expanded Deans' Council):

UNIVERSITY

- Co-Chair of Student Matriculation Success task force to begin university strategic planning efforts.
- Nebraska 150 Commission Executive Steering Committee.
- Nebraska 150 Commission Mission & Values Committee.
- Chair Search Committee for Dean of Graduate Education.
- Chair Search Committee for Dean of Journalism & Mass Communications.
- Strategy Team to guide development of the initial N | 2025 Strategy Blueprint.

PROFESSION

Council for Interior Design Accreditation

- Chair of the Board of Directors, Council for Interior Design Accreditation. 2021.
- Board of Directors, Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), initial 3-year term, reappointment for second 3-year term,

Board of Directors, Nuckolls Lighting Fund (2016-17).

AIA Nebraska

- Board of Directors, ex officio.

- Committee on Design.
- Review & Selection Committee: AIA Nebraska Harry Cunningham Gold Medal award (highest honor AIA NE can bestow on an individual).

Board, Architectural Foundation Nebraska.

Capitol Commission Board.

International Interior Design Association (IIDA)

- IIDA Educators Roundtable, multiple years, (one of 10 educators, 4 practitioners, 3 students from North America)
- IIDA Chapter Leadership Council (North America) Panel and participation (one of only 3 invited educators)

Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC)

- Arnold P. Friedmann Educator of Distinction Award (highest honor IDEC can bestow)
- IDEC Foundation Mentor for Foundation Graduate Students (one of only 2) "Our intention is to connect the scholars to active, passionate, and forward-looking design educators."
- IDEC Student Competition reviewer.

Letters of Nomination or Support (representative list, not all letters indicated here)

- AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education (Jeffrey Day) (Awarded)
- AIA Young Architects Award (Matthew DeBoer) (Awarded)
- IDEC Teaching Excellence Award (Lindsey Bahe) (Awarded)
- ARCC New Researcher Award (Julia Day)
- UNL Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award (David Karle) (Awarded)
- Willa Cather Professorship (Jeffrey Day)

- Carl A. Donaldson Award for Excellence in Management (Stephanie Kuenning) (Awarded)
- CELA Faculty Award: Excellence in Research + Creative Works Junior Level (Catherine De Almeida)
- IIDA Diversity Award (Vibha Jani) (Awarded)
- UNL College Distinguished Teaching Award (Lindsey Bahe) (Awarded)
- NCARB Scholars in Professional Practice (Andrea Kelly)
- Sean F. Mellon Memorial Architectural Scholarship Award (Kylie Miller)

Other Universities & Academic Elevation

- Graduate program review, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin.
- Program review at Ohio State University.
- Five promotion & tenure reviews (Florida State University, University of Texas at Austin, Oklahoma State University, Baylor University).
- Three promotion to full professor reviews at major land grant universities.
- Five-year dean's review at major land-grant university.
- Reference Letter, Alumni Research Award, Virginia Tech

HONORS, AWARDS, CONTRIBUTIONS

During this five-year period as Dean, I have been honored by significant awards and contributed to the profession:

- 2020 IIDA Educator of the Year.
- Inducted as Interior Design Educators Council Fellow, 2017.
- Inducted to International Interior Design Association (IIDA) College of Fellows, 2020 (less than one percent of the 15,000 IIDA members are elevated to the College of Fellows.



May 31, 2022

2022 AIA Nebraska Architectural/Design Education Award Selection Committee:

Katherine Ankerson has been an exceptional resource for the College of Architecture, serving as Dean for the past five years. Her leadership is exemplary, providing substantive roles for others to grow and succeed.

She has a design sensibility, based in current and forward looking cultural influences, bringing partners from the profession, industry and academic areas to interact with students.

A broad background of experience through her career served the College of Architecture well. Her knowledge was invaluable for all four schools; Architecture, Urban Planning, Interior Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Leading a Strategic Plan for the College, concurrent with the University Strategic Plan, Katherine reinforced the ideals of design in every aspect of the plan. Her leadership brought a new spirit to the faculty and administration that resulted in an increase in admissions.

I have been close enough to the College to know that her leadership and 'esprit de corps' has resulted in the College improving data driven design thinking across all disciplines.

Katherine is well deserving of the recognition, and I am pleased to include my support of consideration for the 2022 AIA Nebraska Architectural/Design Education Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Carpenter AIA
Senior Vice President





DLR Group inc.
a Nebraska corporation
6457 Frances Street, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68106

June 6, 2022

AIA Nebraska
335 N. 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education

Dear AIA Nebraska Jury Members:

It is my pleasure to offer my heartfelt recommendation of Kathy Ankerson for the distinguished AIA Nebraska Award for Architectural/Design Education.

I have had the privilege of collaborating with Kathy throughout my roles as an advisory board member and lecturer in the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I have personally witnessed her total dedication to preserving its integrity and championing its evolution. The impact she has made is nothing short of immense. From orchestrating its strategic plan, engaging key stakeholders across the nation, and earning her role as the Executive Vice Chancellor, Kathy does it all. Kathy is vital to the success of not only the College of Architecture, but the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a whole.

What is remarkable about Kathy is that her impressive resume does not outshine who she is. She is incredibly genuine and the embodiment of a lifelong learner, always striving to learn more and do better for students. Everything she does is honest and for the right reasons.

Kathy truly epitomizes the positive connection of architecture and education, and I cannot recommend her enough for this honor.

Sincerely,
DLR Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Schutte'.

Vanessa Schutte, AIA, ALEP
Principal | Architect



DLR Group inc.
a Nebraska corporation
6457 Frances Street, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68106

June 06, 2022

LOR: On behalf of Katherine Ankerson

Dear AIA NE Committee:

It is a pleasure to share with you my experience in working with Kathy over the course of over twenty (20) years as an educator and leader.

While I was attending the University of Nebraska, Kathy was the Interiors Department Chair and she reached out to collaborate on the development of design software. We authored a program to help educate young designers on processes. It seems so simple now but during the infancy of the internet it was cutting edge.

After graduation we kept in touch and on several occasions, Kathy connected me with promising students looking for internships that we helped place in a few of our offices. Many of them proved to be some of our brightest and best designers.

Our paths crossed again recently as we began discussing the idea of a post-pandemic focused workplace design studio. As the Global Workplace Leader for DLR Group I spend the majority of my time working with tech-focused clients that are on the edge of the future workplace. With studio being able to be offered remotely we had the opportunity to offer a unique and timely course that could include many prominent voices that would not have visited the university otherwise due to distance and financial constraints.

Most recently I joined Kathy on the UNL Future of Work Task Force that she oversaw. The task force was asked to develop a new guide that the Chancellor could review and enact for staff and faculty of the University. As you can imagine this was not an easy task and many opinions were shared, but in the end a draft policy will be put forward that moves the University forward and Kathy was the one to ensure that happened.

Overall, I was able to interact with Kathy as a student, as a professor, and as a colleague. She is always thinking about the bigger picture and willing to test new ideas if it means moving design education forward. I am thankful for my interactions and would like to see her honored so that others are inspired to make moves that inspire the next generation.

Sincerely,
DLR Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Reding".

Jeremy M Reding, AIA
Global Workplace Leader | Senior Principal

cc:
David Karle
Sharon Kuska

ELEVATE *the*
HUMAN EXPERIENCE
THROUGH DESIGN

