



CANDIDATE for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR (3-year term)

Mark Pearson, College of DuPage

Candidate Statement

My name is Mark Pearson and I am seeking the position of At-Large Director of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA).

I am a Professor of Architecture at College of DuPage, a Community College located in Glen Ellyn Illinois. I am a Licensed Architect in the State of Illinois and a LEED accredited professional. At College of DuPage I am responsible for teaching the second year design studio curriculum in the pre-architecture program; which includes architectural design, presentation, portfolio and visualization courses. I have also initiated the design + build summer studio, a grant funded experiential learning opportunity for community college architecture students.

I believe that my experience working with community college architecture students will bring a unique and welcome perspective to the ACSA board.

I have been a full time faculty member at College of DuPage for the past 18 years, and in that time our pre-architecture program has successfully transferred over 300 students into accredited ACSA member schools. Many of these transfer students have not only gone on to complete their professional degrees, but are now licensed architects working in firms across the country. Several former students own their own firms.

Yet in spite of the many success stories, students who begin their architectural education at a community college still face challenges, barriers and attitudes of elitism as they navigate their way through an architectural education. Community college students are not alone in facing these challenges. I expect that some of your students may have similar experiences. As an ACSA board member I will continue to advocate for our institutions and the profession at large with empathy and understanding for the needs of the diverse students we serve.

Since 2013 I have been an active member of the Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs, a national organization that advocates for our programs and students. My institution is one of the founding CCCAP members. I remain committed to building bridges between organizations and fostering further dialog between CCCAP and ACSA on our shared goals and values.

For the past four years I have been a member of the ACSA Education Committee, of which I am the current co-chair. My experience serving on the Education Committee has sharpened my focus on key critical issues for the future of ACSA. This work has included:

- Understanding healthy learning culture in architectural education
- Promoting inclusive, equitable, and welcoming learning environments
- Examining ways to improve socioeconomic, racial and gender equity in architectural education
- Researching perceptions of power dynamics and racial equity in architecture schools
- Working to engage community colleges and expanding pathways toward an architectural education

All of these challenges remain critical and timely as we navigate forward. With your support, I am both humble and eager to continue to advocate on these important issues as the first Community College faculty member to serve as an At-Large Director on the ACSA board.





CANDIDATE for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR (3-year term)

Mark Pearson, College of DuPage

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

MARK A. PEARSON, AIA, LEED AP

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Master of Architecture, Design Option, 1999
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, 1997

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Professor of Architecture, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn Illinois, 2015-p
Associate Professor (2010-2015), Assistant Professor (2006-2010), Instructor (2004-2006)
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Architectural Design, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 1997-1999

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mark A. Pearson AIA, Licensed Architect, State of Illinois, 2005-p
Frye Gillan Molinaro Architects Ltd, Chicago, Illinois, 2001-2004
Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP, Chicago, Illinois, 1999-2001
Gere Dismer Architects, Moline, Illinois, summers 1992-1996

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Clyde Lee and Jane Cecilia Baker Traveling Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2007
Edward L. Ryerson Fellow in Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 1999
Frank B. and Jenny M. Long Traveling Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 1997

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS / PUBLICATIONS / GRANTS

AIA Illinois Educators Roundtable Panel Discussion, October 6, 2022
"Expanding Access to Architectural Education: Working with Community Colleges"
Part I: ACSA Administrators Conference panel discussion (Moderator), October 14, 2021
Part II: ACSA Webinar (Moderator), November 11, 2021
Part II: ACSA Webinar (Moderator), November 17, 2022
"Post-Pandemic: What is the Future of Higher Education?"
ACSA Administrators Conference panel discussion, online, November 6, 2020
"Equity and Empathy in the Architecture Studio: What can we learn from virtual design studios during a pandemic?"
ACSA Education Committee online discussion, May 28, 2020
RFE Grants for Arch Design + Build Studio Initiative, College of DuPage Foundation
(\$40,000 funding awarded for multiple projects 2013-2020)
"Why aren't we talking about Community College Architecture Programs?" AIA Chicago, Chicago Architect Magazine
OP-ED on diversity in the architecture profession, July-August Edition 2018.
"IF YOU BUILD IT... Design Build in the CCCAP"
Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs annual conference, New York, June 23, 2018
"Connecting to the Community, Project-Based Learning to Build a Greener Future" Greenbuild, 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Institute of Architects, member, 2005-p
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Education Committee co-chair 2021-2023
Committee Focus: Expanding access to higher education for community college students.
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Education Committee member, 2019-2021
Chicago Architecture + Design Career Day planning team, website and graphic design
Consortium for Design and Construction Careers and AIA Chicago Foundation, 2017-p

AWARDS

Outstanding Faculty Award winner, Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs, 2018
AIA Distinguished Project Merit Award winner, AIA Northeast Illinois
for Architecture Design + Build Studio student project 'Umbra', 2017
Division-wide Outstanding Faculty Award winner, College of DuPage, 2014
USGBC Excellence in Green Building Education Honor Award winner
for co-creation of Architecture 2840: Sustainable Design Initiatives, College of DuPage, 2009