



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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Ron Leighton  
LAAB Administrator

February 20, 2014

Board Members

Matthew Kirkwood, ASLA, Associate Professor, Program Director  
Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture  
North Dakota State University  
Klai Hall  
711 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Practitioners

Rodney Swink, FASLA

Richard N. Giardella, ASLA  
Giardella Associates

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA  
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Dear Professor Kirkwood:

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA  
Kansas State University

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA, Chair  
California State Polytechnic University

Gary Kesler, FASLA  
Pennsylvania State University

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board at its February 8, 2014 meeting granted accreditation to the course of study leading to the first professional BLA degree at North Dakota State University. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2019. Accordingly, the BLA program is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2019.

Public Representatives

Linda Battram  
Gennady Schwartz

In making its decision, the LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team report, the institution's response to the team report, and discussions with team members and program faculty.

ASLA Representative

David H. Walters, ASLA

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in annual reports) and suggestions for improvement (to be responded to in annual reports). This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

CELA Representative

Kenneth Brooks, FASLA  
Arizona State University

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

CLARB Representative

Tom Sherry, ASLA

Sincerely,

Karen Hanna-Towne, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Dean L. Bresciani, President

**North Dakota State University  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
February 8, 2014**

**Summary of Recommendations and Suggestions**

*A. Recommendations Affecting Accreditation*

1. Create a strategic long-range plan as soon as possible (Standard 1).
2. Provide updated information online and comply with LAAB Public Information Policy (Standard 1)
3. Provide faculty with teaching assignments that allow sufficient opportunity to pursue professional advancement and development (Standard 5).

*B. Suggestions for Improvements*

1. Provide adequate release time for the program director and department chair for administration to move the program forward during the next several academic cycles (Standard 2).
2. Strengthen design development and construction document sequence to better prepare students for professional practice (Standard 3).
3. Make efforts to find and track your graduates and encourage them to maintain contact with the program (Standard 6).