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CERTIFICATION OPENS DOORS FOR ARCHITECTS

A major client has decided to expand its business outside of the area where you are licensed. Are you ready to take advantage of this new opportunity? Perhaps you have your own firm and realize there are some new business prospects in a neighboring state. Are you ready to go after them?

Whether it is being ready to take advantage of business ventures in multiple jurisdictions, being licensed where your clients need you to be, or preparing yourself for a geographic life change, to be competitive in today's economy requires that you have the ability to be mobile and pursue work. A vital step to gaining mobility and being able to meet your clients' needs, in any situation, is becoming NCARB certified. Obtaining the NCARB Certificate allows a registered architect who is licensed in the United States or Canada to gain reciprocity in most other jurisdictions quickly and easily because it certifies that education, experience, and examination standards have been met.

"Mobility for architects is extremely valuable in today's business climate as it allows them to go after work wherever it's located," says Lenore M. Lucey, FAIA, Executive Vice President at NCARB. "As clients look to expand or move across state lines, the ability for architects to move with them is important."

In addition to mobility, the NCARB Certificate provides those applying for licensure in other jurisdictions a simpler process—this can save you time in the future if you need to quickly take advantage of an opportunity. If you don't already have an NCARB Record—starting one would be your first step. An NCARB Record is the repository of

all of your education, experience, and examination information. Record information is confidential and will only be disclosed to the jurisdictions where you apply to become licensed. Once you have obtained the NCARB Certificate, when you want to get licensed in another jurisdiction, you only need to submit a request along with a transmittal fee, and your record will be transmitted to the registration board in support of your application for licensure. All jurisdictions accept the NCARB Certificate and half require that you have it for reciprocal licensure. Check with your individual jurisdiction to see what additional requirements you will need to submit for licensure.

“The NCARB Certificate makes it faster to get certified in other jurisdictions,” said Lucey. “It speeds up the process because with the NCARB Certificate, states know that they have all your information in one concise package. Additionally, individual licensing boards recognize that the NCARB Certificate means that applicants have met established professional standards. This is why it is so valuable.”

Kenneth R. Feyl, AIA, architect and co-founder of CUBE 3 Studio in Lawrence, MA decided to obtain the NCARB Certificate because he knew it would open up options for him as an architect. He received his first license in his home state of Massachusetts in 2002 and immediately started the process with NCARB to receive his Certificate, which he obtained in the same year. He said the value of the NCARB Certificate has already been realized in his business, as his firm has been able to do work outside his home state with national clients.

Feyl and his partners have a number of ongoing projects in various jurisdictions

including corporate office buildings for a client in Rhode Island and a medical office building with tenant spaces in New Hampshire. He also has a number of diverse projects including medical office buildings and medical tenant suites; multi-family, residential, and commercial buildings—with both core and shell work; and a number of retail projects.

“What is nice is that you can get any state’s license via the NCARB reciprocity process, just follow the step-by-step instructions on NCARB’s web site,” Feyl said.

Feyl offers advice to architects considering certification and to candidates who are getting their Certificate. “Be proactive and just do it,” he said. “Review the process and the information that you need to provide on the NCARB web site, submit it, and get started.” He recommends that architects who are going through certification to “be patient, because it takes some time, but what it will provide you with is another accreditation that adds to your credibility as an architect, which is recognizable to those in the industry as well as to those outside of the industry.” There can also be hang ups that may hinder the application process such as the amount of time your college may take to get your transcripts, so it is important to stay on top of everything.

Robert J. Dermody, assistant professor of architecture at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI decided to pursue the NCARB Certificate to augment his credentials for promotion and tenure, and to enhance his qualifications to practice in the future. He wanted to become certified after earning his M.Arch degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and took advantage of a variety of working and teaching positions to fulfill his IDP requirements. After completing

the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), he received his initial license in Massachusetts in 2008 and his NCARB Certificate in 2009.

“By receiving the NCARB Certificate I felt a sense of accomplishment that I have achieved the highest professional standards for architects,” Dermody said. “Being able to say that I am NCARB certified has been beneficial to my career development.”

He encourages architects who are in practice as well as those in academia to become certified because the NCARB Certificate reinforces the connection between the two, allowing reciprocity, mobility, and continuing education opportunities throughout your career.

To begin the certification process candidates must first be licensed in the United States or Canada and meet the following requirements for NCARB certification: earn a professional degree from a NAAB-accredited or CACB-accredited program or complete the Broadly Experienced Architect (BEA) process, satisfy the Intern Development Program (IDP) requirement, and pass the ARE.

The NCARB Certificate validates your qualifications to practice architecture as it shows that you have met all established professional standards. In today’s competitive business climate it is important for architects to have credentials that will allow them to go after work wherever it is located and to meet client’s needs in any location, whether it is local or national. For more information about NCARB certification go to: <http://www.ncarb.org/en/Certification-and-Reciprocity/Certification-Overview.aspx>. **DC**