

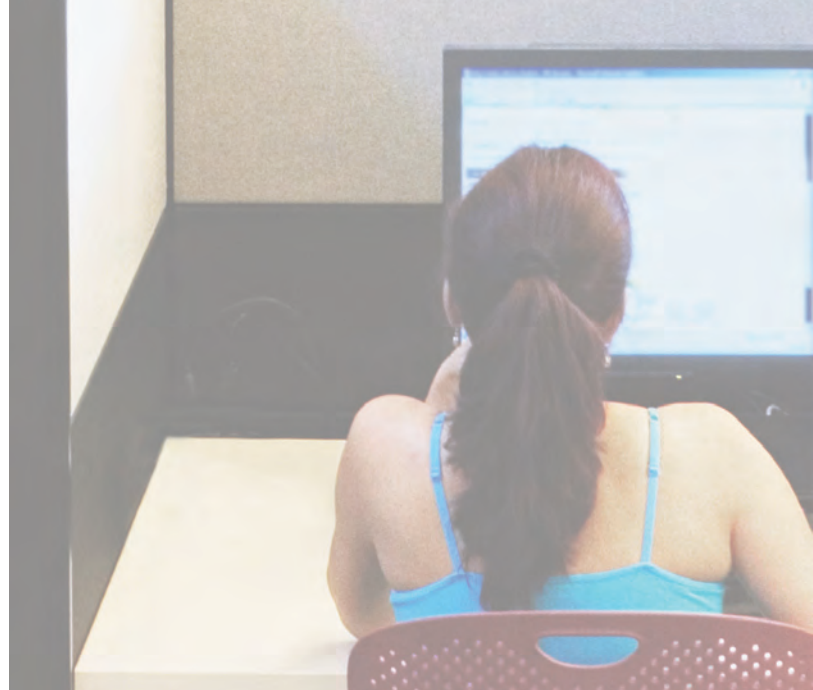
## Excerpt from the February 2006 NCARB Board of Directors' Policy Statement

The public is best served by an architect who has an accredited professional degree in architecture, who has completed the Intern Development Program (IDP) in order to gain practical experience within the profession, and who then completes and passes the Architect Registration Examination (ARE).

Each of these components adds separately to the process of ensuring that newly registered architects are competent to practice independently. Each of these components, while well developed, is not perfect in and of itself, and it is in combination that they provide for appropriate protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare. The most objectively defensible of the three is the ARE, and some appropriate components of it should be the last qualification before licensure.

In the decades since the sequential concept of education/IDP/ARE was established in the Model Law, much has changed in the education and training of emerging professionals. Notably, with great credit to the Boyer Report, the practice of architecture is better integrated into the academy, and accredited programs today attract among the very best and brightest of university students. While an emerging professional has much yet to learn after graduation from an accredited program, we recognize that some of them may be prepared to begin taking the ARE after acquiring a prerequisite level of practical experience.

NCARB has collected and analyzed considerable data, debated this subject internally, and discussed this matter with our collateral colleagues. After these deliberations, it is our conclusion that there is no evidence of increased risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the public if a candidate with an accredited professional degree and who is actively engaged in IDP is permitted to begin to start taking divisions of the ARE. The data revealed that only a very small portion of candidates in those jurisdictions that permit the ARE to be taken out of sequence currently choose to do so.



NCARB leadership and Member Boards continue to sort out details for the IDP/ARE timing issue.

# IDP-ARE Sequencing: An Update

What is the sequencing question that has attracted so much attention lately? Sequencing, in this case, refers to the amount of experience needed to qualify for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). A majority of state architectural registration boards currently require emerging professionals to complete all of the Intern Development Program (IDP) prior to sitting for the ARE.

In recent years, a groundswell of advocacy has sought to redefine the relationship between IDP and the ARE. Having listened to and participated in the ongoing conversation, Council leaders included this issue in the new Strategic Plan and also drafted a February 2006 policy statement (see *sidebar excerpt*) that was reprinted in the spring 2006 issue of *Direct Connection*.

The policy statement represents a first step toward revising NCARB's Model Law in terms of sequencing experience and examination. It was the basis for a resolution brought forward during the 2006 Annual Meeting and Conference in Cincinnati, OH, in late June. There, meeting delegates, representing 52 of the 55 NCARB member boards, considered Resolution 06-12: "Model Law Amendment—ARE Timing."

After the introduction and acceptance of a revised amendment from Region 5 (Central States Conference), a majority of member boards voted to table any changes to the Model Law until implementation details for the policy can be established for member board review. These details will include requirements such as:

- the number of months of experience under the supervision of an architect,



- minimum number of IDP Training Units, and
- which divisions of the ARE should be allowed to be taken early.

It is anticipated that a new resolution will be offered at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Any changes to NCARB Model Law do not automatically affect individual jurisdictions. That is to say, each NCARB member board will have the option to revise its rules and regulations on qualifying for examination.

To keep track of the progress of this issue, visit the NCARB web site for a frequently-asked-questions feature ([www.ncarb.org/idp/idpfaq.html#ques7](http://www.ncarb.org/idp/idpfaq.html#ques7)) and for contact information for individual boards of architecture ([www.ncarb.org/stateboards/index.html](http://www.ncarb.org/stateboards/index.html)). **DC**

## **IDP/ARE Sequencing Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***I heard that NCARB approved taking the ARE before the completion of IDP at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Is this true?***

No. In February 2006, NCARB's Board of Directors issued a policy statement proposing that a candidate with an accredited professional degree and who is actively engaged in IDP be permitted to begin taking divisions of the ARE. The Board proposed a resolution at the 2006 Annual Meeting that would have changed the current Model Law recommendation that candidates only be made eligible to start taking the ARE after the candidate has completed IDP.

### ***What happened at the 2006 Annual Meeting?***

The NCARB Member Boards requested that prior to any change in the Model Law, the Board of Directors prepare implementation details of such policy. The details shall include requirements such as the number of months of experience under the supervision of an architect, minimum number of IDP Training Units, and which divisions of the ARE should be allowed to be taken early.

A resolution to implement such policy will be presented at the NCARB 2007 Annual Meeting. Following a June 2007 vote of approval, NCARB's Model Law will be amended and individual Member Boards will be able to determine if they will adopt the policy.

### ***Which jurisdictions allow emerging professionals to begin taking the ARE before completing IDP?***

There are currently nine jurisdictions that allow candidates to take the ARE prior to the completion of IDP. They are Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Kentucky, Puerto Rico, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

The individual laws and requirements for eligibility to sit for the ARE prior to completion of IDP vary greatly. Candidates must contact their respective Board of Architecture to understand specific requirements and criteria. Visit [www.ncarb.org/stateboards/index.html](http://www.ncarb.org/stateboards/index.html) for more information.