

President's Message August 2021

The College continues to make great progress to bring more awareness to the ACHA credential and the expertise of our certifiants. So many of you regularly speak, publish and provide thought leadership in your own right, but I've made it a cornerstone of my presidency to begin to aggregate that expertise into an ACHA point of view – to help establish ACHA as the voice of the health architecture profession. What I hope you all notice this year is a very deliberate effort on the part of the Board of Regents to showcase our expertise as an organization. This is a really hard-working Board. In addition to serving as committee liaisons and attending our monthly business meetings, I challenged everyone on the Board to spearhead initiatives around forging partnerships in adjacent industries, building public awareness of the impact of design on health and well-being, and strengthening outreach to our current and potential certifiants. These initiatives have been making great progress through existing committees and new task forces. We also held our first Strategic Planning Session at the end of July to help think about the next three to five years. The Board will review the organizational structure and establish new volunteer opportunities for 2022 based on our new strategic plan. Keep an eye out for how you can get involved.



Angela Mazzi, FAIA, FACHA

Let's celebrate some of our accomplishments.

- ACHA has been contacted by reporters for publications, such as *Modern Healthcare* and the *New York Times*, who are conducting research and specifically want to get our organization's point of view. We are contributing to their publications, in addition to the articles we write each year for *Health Facilities Management* magazine.
- Our Outreach committee has made great strides forging relationships with allied organizations, such as the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), American Society of Healthcare Engineers (ASHE), the Academy of Architecture for Health (AAH), and the Veteran's Administration (VA). We will be doing things like sharing news, website links, providing articles and educational content.
- Speaking of allied organizations, I'm so proud of [The Future of Healthcare Task Force's final report](#), which is now available on the ACHA website. This task force included members of some of the organizations listed above, and two workshops we hosted included an even broader range of participants. I can't wait for you to read it and share your thoughts.
- Look for a reboot of our signature program, the Masters Series. The first of these online panel discussions, *Shifting to Comprehensive Care*, will be recorded in late August. This will be the first in a collection of topics featuring our certifiants

and will be hosted on our ACHA YouTube channel with links to our website and promoted by our allied organizations.

- While we have many exciting initiatives involving planning and design, I'm also excited to announce that we've been in discussions with ASHE around solving a problem their members typically encounter related to code compliance. We will be forming a task force with them to explore common pitfalls and provide guidance on navigating Joint Commission approval.
- The Communications and Outreach Committee has continued to profile certificants, so that you can get to know one another better. Please reach out to those profiled to introduce yourself or share a common interest. We also have been regularly sharing accomplishments on our LinkedIn Group and Twitter. Connect with ACHA and join in the discussions!
- We are still beta testing, but our decoupled exam and portfolio path to certification has shown promise. A record number of individuals took the test this year, with a majority of them opting to submit portfolios in the fall. The Certification Committee put quite a bit of creativity and effort into developing this new process and will be getting feedback to make recommendations about the new format after this certification cycle completes.
- The Exam Committee launched our first ever study groups in June. We are excited to form a supportive community around those taking our very rigorous exam.
- The EDI+SJ task force has looked at our organization demographics and, while we'd love to have even more diversity, it's encouraging to see that we outperform the AIA and NCARB. We've also had some great first meetings with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), who are excited to partner with us in promoting certification. The task force is currently putting together a presentation with their recommendations. Expect to see actionable initiatives, resources and toolkits to help us implement these strategies organization-wide.
- Our recruitment task force is comprised of members of the Communications and Outreach Committee and Career Path Committee. This group is looking at ways to spread the message of why certification matters.
- The Career Path Committee evaluated the data we collect. Look for some new fields to complete when you recertify at the end of this year that will help give us a more complete picture of our certificants so that we can serve you better and help you connect with one another.

Our Third Town hall is coming up in August. Mark your calendar! It's a great way to get caught up on the latest ACHA news and network with peers. I also hope to see many of you this October in Cleveland, OH for our live and in-person Annual meeting. We have an exciting program planned that highlights ACHA as a catalyst for change. We are a very dynamic and active organization, and we'd love to have you get involved in one or more of these exciting activities that are shaping the practice of architecture as it relates to health and well-being.