



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

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Board Members

August 11, 2025

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA  
LAAB Chair  
California State Polytechnic University  
Pomona

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA  
University of Texas at Austin

Kevin Jon Benham  
Director and Associate Professor  
Landscape Architecture Program  
College of Architecture  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0106

Dear Professor Benham,

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA  
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA  
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 8, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional BLA degree at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2027, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams  
LAAB Secretary  
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA  
Koukuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen  
University of Miami School of Law

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance, when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) from this Final Action Letter in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the date of this Final Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer-term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Final Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP  
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA  
Pennsylvania State University

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2031. Accordingly, the BLA program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2031.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
Mark Thomas

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

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Enclosed is a list of Recommendations Affecting Accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Report template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Weimin Li', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, President

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 8, 2025**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Work with the campus leadership to develop specific strategies that will enable the University to support the program and the College in their efforts to create and maintain an environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive (Standard 1).

## **Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

### **Interim Report**

**Submitted By:**

**Submission Date:**

#### **Section 1.**

**Name of Institution:**

**Name of Department:**

**Name of Program:**

**Date of Decision Letter:**

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#### **Section 2.**

**Recommendation Affecting Accreditation:** (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If the Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

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#### **Section 3.**

**Action Taken by Program:** (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

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#### **Section 4.**

**Prior Action Taken by Program:** (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)