

2026 - 27 MIDWEST QUAD DIRECTOR PACKET

Nate Morton, AIAS
Kansas State University



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Contact Information Sheet

NATE MORTON, AIAS

nrmorton@ksu.edu - Kansas City, Missouri | Manhattan, KS

WORK EXPERIENCE

Student Architectural Intern

University of Missouri - Kansas City

- Constructed large scale models in various materials for use in presentations for potential clients and municipal government.
- Developed extensive 3D models for laser cutting, 3D printing, and CNC'ing

Sustainability Architectural Intern

Treanor Architects

- Participated in efforts on Green Certifications for a variety of projects
- Assembled documentation for the Firm in development of sustainability efforts, including; Building reuse guides, sustainability roadmaps, and more.

EDUCATION

Masters in Architecture (M.ARCH)

Kansas State University

Undergrad in Architecture

University of Missouri - Kansas City

VOLUNTEERING + LEADERSHIP

American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)

K-State Chapter President

- Oversaw operations of the Chapter and communicated with Headquarters

2025 - 26 FBD Advisory Committee Chair

- Lead the Committee and served as an advisor to FBD Chapters Worldwide

K-State Chapter Vice President

- Led meetings, handled logistics, and assisted the President

2025 Midwest Quad Conference Planning Team

- Managed finances, organized the schedule, coordinated venues, and more.

2024 - 25 FBD Advisory Committee Member

- Assisted the chair in assembling presentations, reports, and more

K-State FBD Project Manager

- Developed design documents, oversaw construction, and managed finances

UrbanLab KC

Member

- Attended meetings and assisted in assembling graphic

05/2023 - 08/2023

Kansas City, MO

01/2025 - Present

Kansas City, MO

08/2023 - 05/2026

Manhattan, KS

08/2021 - 05/2023

Kansas City, MO

10/2023 - Present

Manhattan, KS

Online (Global)

Manhattan, KS

Kansas City, MO

Online (Global)

Manhattan, KS

03/2025 - Present

Kansas City, MO

Nate Morton, AIAS

K-State Chapter President

Jordan Luther, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA

AIAS Past-President

1735 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20006



Dear Past-President Luther,

I am writing to humbly express my intent to run for the position of Midwest Quad Director for the 2026–27 cycle. As I reflect on my involvement within the AIAS over the past several years, I am exceptionally grateful for the impact this organization has had on my growth as a leader, advocate, and person. Today, I am eager to take the next step and continue that service at the Quad level and contribute meaningfully to the future of our organization.

My commitment to the AIAS has been shaped by a wide range of experiences across chapter, national, and regional work. As President of the Kansas State University Chapter, I have had the privilege of leading a passionate community of students, strengthening our programming, expanding collaboration the College of APDesign, and championing a culture of empowerment. This role has reinforced my belief that strong chapters are not simply built on relationships, but true and intentional support. I seek to bring these lessons learned and values with me as I navigate a role as Midwest Quad Director.

At the national level, serving as Chair of the 2025–26 Freedom by Design Advisory Committee has allowed me to help refine national service initiatives, support chapters across the world, and articulate a renewed vision for Freedom by Design in its second quarter-century. This work has deepened my understanding of the diverse needs of chapters and the resources required for them to thrive. Additionally, as Chair of the 2025 AIAS Midwest Quad Conference (ARCH+) in Kansas City, I have gained firsthand experience in regional leadership, including; coordinating logistics, programming, fundraising, and partnerships to deliver a purposeful and memorable Quad experience for 150 students across the great Midwest.

It would be an honor to continue serving the Midwest Quad in this expanded capacity. I look forward to having some great conversations with chapter leadership over the course of FORUM in Denver and getting to know better precisely what chapters are looking for out of a Quad Director!

Sincerely,

Nate Morton, AIAS

K-State Chapter President



ARCHITECTURE
THE COLLEGE of
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN // K-STATE

Jordan Luther, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Nate Motrton

21 December 2025

Dear Past President Luther,

I enthusiastically and fully support Nate Morton's decision to apply for the AIAS Midwest Quad Director position. I recommend Nate based on his accomplishments as a student in Architectural Design Studio 4, which I taught in the spring semester of 2024, and as a guest presenter in the Building Construction Systems in Architecture 1 lecture class in the spring of 2025. In studio and as a presenter, Nate impressed me with his keen mind and leadership skills.

The first studio project of the 2024 spring semester was "The City Workshop" located in New York City. Nate conducted extensive research to uncover information from the 1800s about West Houston Street and the surrounding area in SOHO, New York. His research for this project was valuable to his project, and, more importantly, he shared it with everyone for their benefit. His effort and in-depth research skills were remarkable, and I believe he used the same skill set during his internship to contribute to his work at Treanor Architects, where he was a sustainability architectural intern.

In the spring of 2025, I invited Nate to present to the Building Construction Systems in Architecture 1 that I teach each spring. BCSA1 is a large lecture class of over one hundred ten (110) second-year students who are studying for a Master of Architecture or Master of Interior Architecture. Nate was enthusiastic about presenting his work at Treanor Architects, which included analyses of several sustainable evaluation organizations. He presented information about CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools and organizations such as WELL AP and LFA (Living Futures Institute Accreditation), which encourage student membership. His presentation resonated with the students; many were interested in learning how to secure an internship, and others were eager to become members of WELL and LFA immediately after the presentation. Nate's commitment to his internship and research was palpable, and we agreed that he would return in 2026 to present to the spring BCSA1 class.

Beyond studio, Nate is exceedingly active in the American Institute of Architecture Students, AIAS. His participation began in his third year, when he entered Kansas State University from the Department of Architecture's affiliated program at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Nate's participation in AIAS activities has increased exponentially since he arrived at K-State. He began volunteering with Freedom by Design, became a project manager, and served on the Freedom by Design Advisory Committee as a member and chair. This committee assists the worldwide FBD chapters with their community design and construction projects.

Nate is currently the AIAS K-State Chapter President and previously served as the Vice-President. He was a vital member of the team that planned the recent and highly successful 2025 Midwest Quad Conference. Nate handles these responsibilities with aplomb, and he will do the same as the Midwest Quad Director.

Nate's willingness to lead and engage in the architectural student community sets him apart from his peers. Being a member of the AIAS has put Nate on a path to success. He is truly flourishing in the organization. His passion is contagious. He enthusiastically promotes the AIAS and its events and mentors the younger members. He is committed to the profession and the work of the AIA and will be an advocate and asset for both.

I highly recommend Nate Morton without reservation. With his achievements and leadership skills, Nate has a bright professional future. This leadership role in the AIAS will enable him to reach his full potential. Nate Morton is the perfect candidate to be the 2026-2027 AIAS Midwest Quad Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy O'Buck Gordon".

Judy O'Buck Gordon, AIA, Registered Architect, NCARB, LEEDAP
Associate Professor, Graduate Programs Director, Department of Architecture, Kansas State University
Principal, O Architects, LLC

Samuel Nickols

AIAS K-State Past-President

**Jordan Luther, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA**

AIAS Past-President

1735 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20006

Dear Past-President Luther,

Nate Morton has been a dear friend and excellent successor for our local K-State AIAS chapter. Ever since I started talking to him during Forum 2024, I knew that he was someone that had very strong leadership values and had the drive to get things done. His participation in Freedom By Design immediately showed off his leadership skills and really highlighted his strong sense of involvement and productivity.

During Grassroots 2024, I had started looking for a president-elect for K-State's chapter of AIAS and I knew that Nate would be excellent in the role. His involvement with FBD was overwhelmingly positive and I knew that there were already signs he would make a great chapter president. I had pitched it to him one night and as our elections began to start up he committed to being a candidate. Once he was elected, he already started pushing for us to do more and he was one of the main people headlining our involvement with the Midwest Quad Conference.

He already lived in Kansas City, went to UMKC, and stayed up to date with the newest information about projects in KC, so he was the perfect person to lead K-State's involvement. Months of planning, organizing, communication, and last-minute changes were right up his alley and during the conference I was amazed at just how much he and the other planning members accomplished. The entire conference was full of insightful moments that really showed off just how much Kansas City has to offer, and without Nate I don't think the same outcome could've been reached.

Nate has such a strong passion for what is important and has always taken responsibility to heart. His role as president of K-State's chapter of AIAS has really shown off just how much he flourishes as a leader and really cares for the important things. His productivity and dedication to everything he does is inspiring and I'm looking forward to seeing everything else he can accomplish with AIAS. Nate is an amazing leader and I hope he can continue to find new heights to reach because I know that he is always ready to accomplish more things and create a better organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Nickols', written over a horizontal line.

Samuel Nickols

AIAS K-State Past-President



QUESTIONNAIRE

01

Question 1:

We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. **Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors?** What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?

I am running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors because this organization has been one of the most transformative forces in my academic, professional, and personal development, and I believe deeply in its potential to evolve alongside the next generation of architecture students. My involvement up and to this point has shown me the extraordinary capacity of students to create meaningful change when they are supported, empowered, and heard. What motivates me most is the membership itself: Students who arrive with passion, curiosity, and a desire to build a better world, and who ultimately discover through AIAS that they are capable of far more than they imagined. The AIAS has grown in meaningful ways, yet it must continue adapting to meet the evolving needs of its members. I am running because I believe in steady, student-centered progress: strengthening chapter support, and reinforcing the sense of identity and belonging within the Midwest Quad.

02

Question 2:

Though it may be hard to believe, the AIAS is not perfect. A critical analysis of any organization is a healthy part of its operation. There may be things that you feel the AIAS could do better, or maybe you see new opportunities or partners to engage. **Where do you see room for improvement or new areas for the organization to expand into?**

One area for improvement is reducing barriers to conference attendance and travel. Whether through more intentional price structures or increased awareness of proven fundraising strategies, we can equip chapters to support their members in accessing national events without undue financial burden. Conference participation is one of the most compelling aspects of the AIAS, and more students deserve the chance to experience it. Additionally, I see great potential in deeper, more consistent engagement between Quad Directors and Chapter Leadership. Regular brainstorming sessions, shared programming templates, and more responsive communication can help chapters diversify their events, reach new members, and build stronger internal structures. Strengthening this regional support network would not only elevate chapter operations, but also reinforce the sense of belonging and shared purpose that defines the AIAS. And in doing so, the AIAS can better serve the full breadth of its membership and continue evolving into a truly inclusive, forward-thinking organization.

QUESTIONNAIRE

03

Question 3:

In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, Learning & Teaching Culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. **What one issue do you personally find the most important?** How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS Board of Directors?

Of the many advocacy areas the AIAS has championed in recent years, I believe the most urgent and foundational issue is Learning & Teaching Culture. The studio environment shapes not only how students learn, but how they understand themselves as designers, collaborators, and future professionals. When studio culture is healthy, students thrive. When it is not, the consequences touch every part of their academic and personal lives, affecting wellness, equity, belonging, and long-term confidence in the profession. I would work to make progress on this issue by strengthening the bridge between national advocacy and chapter-level practice. I would help expand accessible resources that chapters can use to evaluate and improve their own learning environments. Finally, I would advocate for stronger partnerships with faculty and administrators, highlighting the value of student leadership in shaping supportive academic environments. By empowering chapters we can create more consistent, sustainable improvements in design academia.

04

Question 4:

The AIAS has over 250 active chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. **How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership?** What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

I would focus on building stronger, more frequent pathways of connection that honor both the diversity and shared aspirations of our chapters. The Midwest is geographically vast and culturally varied, and our chapters reflect that breadth. My goal would be to create structures that make meaningful engagement accessible regardless of chapter size, budget, or location. To better connect members across the region and beyond, I would like to explore a rotating series of low-barrier regional programs. These would supplement the Heartland Huddle and provide consistent touchpoints that build relationships over time rather than only at major conferences. For chapter leaders seeking growth, I would propose a shared repository of event templates, fundraising guides, membership strategies, example budgets, and officer onboarding resources sourced from successful chapters across the Quad. Paired with this, I would organize a mentorship network connecting newer or smaller chapters with experienced leaders who can offer support and advice.

QUESTIONNAIRE

05

Question 5:

Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.

As Midwest Quad Director, my priority would be to cultivate a supportive, responsive, and highly engaged regional network that empowers all chapters to thrive. I intend to fulfill the responsibilities of this role through consistent communication, intentional relationship-building, and programming that reflects the needs and identities of our diverse Midwest membership. My communication plan centers on predictable, multi-platform engagement. I would maintain monthly Heartland Huddle meetings, supplemented by 1-on-1s and casual roundtables focused on shared challenges like recruitment, fundraising, and event planning. Between meetings, I would keep open lines of communication through the dedicated Slack workspace, regular email updates, and clear any barriers for chapter leaders to request assistance or resources from myself and the Board, moreover. My overarching goal is simple: to ensure every chapter feels connected, supported, and seen. By centering student voices and fostering a culture of partnership, I hope to leave the Midwest Quad stronger, closer, and more confident in its collective potential.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a “Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns.” The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

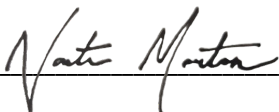
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Nate Morton

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employee interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: 

Date: 11/22/2025

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates and Board Members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Past President.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.

As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: Nate Morton

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature: 

Date: 11/22/2025

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): Nate Morton

Chapter: Kansas State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President | ARCH+KC Planning Team

Email Address: nrmorton@ksu.edu and natemorton2@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (816) 389-7310

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: _____
- Twitter: @_____
- Instagram: @deathcadforcutie
- Other: LinkedIn: Nate Morton, AIAS, LEED Green Associate

