

# ERIN CONTI

NORTHEAST  
QUAD DIRECTOR  
2017-2018



Chapter Vice President  
Freedom By Design Director  
NCARB Licensing Advisor  
Elections Committee '15  
FBD Advisory Group '16-'17

 [erinn.contii](#)  [linkedin.com/in/erin-conti](https://www.linkedin.com/in/erin-conti)

Danielle Mitchell  
Chair of Elections Committee  
American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Danielle,

My name is Erin Conti, and I would like to formally declare my intent to run for the position of Northeast Quad Director on the American Institute of Architecture Student's 2017-2018 National Board of Directors at Forum 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts.

As a member of a small chapter at an unaccredited school, as well as being the only chapter in our state, I believe I have a unique perspective to offer to the National Board. Having been involved in the AIAS since my first year as an architecture student at Keene State College, I have seen this organization from many sides. Now in my third year, during my time as an AIAS member I have served as Secretary and currently as Vice President of our chapter. I co-founded our Freedom by Design Program, and serve as our first NCARB Licensing Advisor. I have also served on national committees for the AIAS, including the 2015 Elections Committee and the 2016-2017 Freedom by Design Advisory Group. Through these various positions I have seen the multitude of ways the AIAS can aid students in their education and in their futures in the profession.

The AIAS gave me a voice, not only at my own school, but in the design community as a whole. It has connected me to other students and professionals who have inspired me as both a design student and as a student leader. My intent in running for Northeast Quad Director is to help other students find their own voices and access all of the resources the AIAS has to benefit their futures in architecture, as the past leaders of this organization have done for me.

Sincerely,



Erin Conti  
**Keene State College AIAS**

# Erin Conti

121 Hardy Rd. Londonderry, NH 03053 | (603) 341-4682 | erin.conti41@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

- KEENE STATE COLLEGE | Keene, New Hampshire | expected graduation 2018  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture  
Minor in Occupational Safety and Health Applied Sciences  
Morris-August Honors Program

## LEADERSHIP/ DISTINCTIONS

- American Institute of Architecture Students member 2014 - present  
AIAS Chapter Secretary | 2015-2016  
AIAS National Elections Committee | 2015  
AIAS Chapter Vice President | 2016-2017  
Freedom by Design Program Director | 2015-2017  
AIAS National Freedom by Design Advisory Group | 2016-2017
- NCARB Architect Licensing Advisor | 2016-2017
- National Society of Leadership and Success
- Dean's List, Keene State College
- KSC Staff Awards of Distinction Selection Committee | 2016

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- LP Young Student Center Building Manager, Keene State College 2016-present  
*Oversee facility operations, responsible for building event management, lead building event set-up crew*
- Keene State College Orientation Staff | 2015-2016  
*Assist incoming First-Year students in their transition to Keene State College*
- LP Young Student Center Information Desk, Keene State College | 2014-2016
- Corporate Cost Control, Londonderry NH | 2012-2015  
*Data Entry Clerk*

## SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite  
*Photoshop, InDesign*
- Microsoft Office Suite  
*Word, Excel, PowerPoint*
- AutoCAD
- SketchUp
- Revit
- Modeling
- Hand Drafting

Danielle Mitchell  
Elections Committee Chair  
The American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

Keene State College is proud to support Erin Conti in her candidacy for the National Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Throughout her time in the Architecture Program at Keene State College (KSC), she has been substantially involved in the AIAS. Since her freshmen year she progressed through the ranks of the KSC Chapter's executive board and represented Keene State architecture students on a national level through the organization.

Her dedication to the program and the AIAS Chapter is reflected in her academic performance and actions as the Chapter Vice President, Freedom by Design Director, and NCARB Licensing Advisor. She is working tirelessly with her fellow executive board members to see that Keene State Architecture students receive appropriate resources, opportunities and support to help them succeed.

Erin's readiness to assume this role has been supported and attested to by Bart Sapeta, an Associate Professor of Architecture who is an architect, member of NCARB and LEED AP. He has demonstrated to me that Erin, both as a student of architecture and a student leader, possesses the capabilities necessary to take on the responsibilities of the position of the Northeast Quad Director. Additionally, she has a tremendous potential to become a successful designer and an avid advocate of the build environment. I am thrilled to extend our support to her in her candidacy and participation at the 2016 Forum Conference.

Sincerely,



Anne Miller  
Dean of Professional and Graduate Studies  
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Keene State College  
[amiller@keene.edu](mailto:amiller@keene.edu)

## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

***1. Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?***

I have always been involved in student leadership. Throughout high school I served in multiple leadership roles for a variety of organizations that I was very passionate about. I knew I wanted to continue this in my higher education, but was very unsure of how. Fortunately, I had a great Orientation Leader who also happened to be the President of our AIAS chapter. He encouraged and inspired me to get involved, and through a split second decision I signed up and was one of the few students that attended Forum 2014 in Nashville, the first Keene State College attended. We were a very small chapter, and I did not know much about the organization as a whole, other than what we did on our own campus. Attending Forum changed everything about how I saw the AIAS. I was introduced to Freedom by Design and was so incredibly inspired by the students and leaders I met, and learned more than I even imagined I could. Before I even left for home I knew that AIAS was something I wanted to be a part of more than just at Keene State. Following Forum, I ran in our chapter elections, and over the next couple of years our executive board and myself did all we could to help our chapter grow and succeed. I have taken every opportunity that has come my way to be involved in this organization, attending every conference I could, serving on national committees, and serving in multiple roles in my chapter. My advice to others would be to follow your passions. My passion for architecture and the AIAS has driven me in all of my endeavors and presented me with many opportunities that have provided me with countless benefits as a design student and as a leader, and connected me with so many people. Taking a chance and attending Forum 2014 was the best decision I have ever made. Taking risks and going outside of your comfort zone will take you so far.

***2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. 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 National Board of Directors?***

The one issue I find the most important is studio culture. At Keene State College, we do not have a NAAB accredited program so we do not have a formal written statement, and it is not something we were told about as students. I feel very strongly that every school should address studio culture and encourage discussions about it with students whether or not the program is accredited because with or without a formal statement, studio culture affects every program and every student. It affects how we learn and how we design. Despite our efforts as a chapter to inform our members, we have many students who choose to not get involved in AIAS who still do not fully understand studio culture. As a chapter we have been focusing a lot on what studio culture means to us and how we as students can create a positive environment for everyone, and have been widening our efforts to expand the conversation to non-members and faculty. As an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors I would progress with this issue by reaching out to faculty. Reaching out to our own faculty helped immensely, because they started to bring the issue to their classes and inform more students than we have been able to reach out to. I also believe it is important for students to hear how other programs feel. I would suggest having video calls between multiple chapters specifically to discuss studio culture, as well as other issues the AIAS advocates for.

***3. The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. 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?***

As a member of the Board, I would do my best to connect with each chapter individually. In my own chapter, as I'm sure is true with many others, not every member attends conferences put on by the AIAS, and therefore does not have the opportunity to meet the National Board of Directors. Typically, chapter leaders are the ones who have a connection to the Directors and then they relay information to their membership, but this puts a gap between the Director and the general members of the chapter. As a Director I would try to visit as many chapters as I could to establish a more personal connection to more members. If I were unable to make a visit to some chapters I would try to meet with them virtually. I think that Google Hangouts are an excellent resource and are very successful when it comes to Quad calls to connect chapter leaders, and I think it could be used to connect to chapters on individual basis as well. Being in the northeast, our chapters have the benefit of being closer geographically than other quads do. My chapter has made trips and spent time with nearby chapters and connected more of our members to each other. As a Director I would encourage and try to help facilitate meet-ups between chapters that are close enough to each other. Chapters also connect with other quads at conferences such as Forum and Grassroots, and the conversations should not stop after the conference ends. I think Quad Directors could work together to combine some Quad Pods and facilitate conversations with other chapters across the country and internationally and help expand chapters' networks.

***4. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.***

One potential opportunity I see for the AIAS to engage in a new way is to connect to other professions and their organizations. While we educate students on NCARB and the path to licensure, we know that not every architecture student will become licensed. A majority of students from Keene State do not go on to become licensed architects, but are very successful in other areas that they are passionate about, and have their architecture education to thank for that. The AIAS acknowledges and informs students that there are many different paths one could take with an architecture education, one of the ways being through The Architype Project, but I think it would be beneficial to many students to move even further. As an example, many students from Keene State move away from design and towards construction management. One route students take is double majoring, or minoring in Occupational Safety and Health Applied Sciences. Students in this area of study have the opportunity to join the American Society of Safety Engineers student chapter at our school. There is overlap in these two areas of study and students could benefit from being exposed to other fields that relate, and connecting with other organizations could help to do that. Being that the AIAS is an organization for architecture students, some students gaining an architecture education but taking a different path in their career choice steer away from the AIAS. Providing more resources and connections for students thinking about going against the traditional path of licensure would aid them in their futures, and also keep AIAS membership growing.



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 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: Erin Conti

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ 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: Erin Conti

Date: 11/15/16



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 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, Board members and elections committee 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 Elections Committee.

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 Elections Chair.

### 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: Erin Conti

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: Erin Conti

Date: 11/15/16

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS  
CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Elections Committee 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): Erin Conti

Chapter: Keene State College

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Secretary ('15-'16) Vice President ('16-'17) FBD Director ('15-'17) NCARB Student Licensing Advisor ('16-'17)

Email Address: Erin.Conti@ksc.keene.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 603-341-4682

**Social Media Account Handles (optional):**

- Facebook: Erin Conti
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: @erinn.conti
- Other: LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/erin-conti