



UNITED STATES ACCESS BOARD

Advancing Full Access and Inclusion for All

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www.access-board.gov

August 17, 2023

Troy Balthazor, Executive Director
Richard Sternadori, Senior Project Coordinator
Region VII Great Plains ADA Center
Department of Architectural Studies
University of Missouri
100 Corporate Lake Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Subject: Support for the Accessible Design Accreditation Initiative (ADAI)

Dear Troy and Richard,

On behalf of the United States Access Board, I wholeheartedly support the Great Plains ADA Center's Accessible Design Accreditation Initiative (ADAI). The Access Board strongly encourages the ADAI principles of advancing accessible design curricula models for college and university programs offering interior design and architectural degrees.

The ADAI aspirations for enhanced and consistent accreditation standards focusing on accessible design can play a pivotal role in promoting accessibility throughout society. The Access Board supports your proposal and urges the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) toward meaningful deliberation of the ideas. A foundational approach that embodies the characteristic design principles of the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, the applicable *International Code Council* model codes, and the *ICC/ANSI A117.1 Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities* is a commonsense methodology for educating our upcoming generations of designers.

Your ADAI program will undoubtedly improve the lives of people with disabilities, the education of design students, the built environment, and the academic and technical professions. We welcome the opportunity to be of service as this innovative proposal to the accreditation agencies moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sachin Dev".

Sachin Dev Pavithran, Ph.D.
Executive Director of the United States Access Board