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COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RANKS AT TOP OF CLASS

Sarah Smith '09 JOUR,
CALA Student Marketing Assistant

Tucson, Ariz. — The College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) at The University of Arizona has received impressive national distinctions for 2007.

Out of more than 120 accredited design schools in the country, *DesignIntelligence* ranked the College's School of Landscape Architecture as the No. 1 graduate program in the western region while the School of Architecture was rated No. 6 in the western region and 16th nationally.

DesignIntelligence, an annual publication released by the Design Futures Council, researches and ranks accredited U.S. schools that offer degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and industrial design. DI collected data from more than 300 firms across the country, with a primary focus on determining which schools produce the most prepared and qualified graduates. Other criteria for rankings include evaluating student skills in construction methods, materials planning, design principles and environmental considerations.

Chuck Albanese, dean of the College, smiled when he talked about the rankings.

“The College and Schools are very proud of these outstanding rankings,” Albanese says. “It’s not surprising to me or anyone else who knows what is happening here. The faculty and students continue to perform enthusiastically to the challenges of design — design with meaning and design for the community.”

Ron Stoltz, professor & director of the School of Landscape Architecture, believes this distinction is very important for the University and College.

“In 2002, Landscape Architecture was threatened with closure,” Stoltz said. “So we implemented a new curriculum with a clear strategic mission to be one of the top schools in our profession. We wanted to be a well-known program with growth and vision. This new ranking recognizes our efforts and the great support of our profession. It shows that we are a thriving program amongst our peers.”

Jim Cramer, co-chair of Design Futures Council and chairman of Greenway Group, explains the significance of being a highly ranked school.

“It’s employers telling us who are the best of the best,” Cramer said.

Larry Medlin, director and professor of the School of Architecture, is proud the caliber of the program is nationally recognized.

“It’s been well-documented that our students, faculty and alumni are first-class — they receive awards from all over the world and in many different fields,” Medlin said. “It’s an innovative world in this College and it’s rewarding to be a part of this team.”

To learn more about the *DesignIntelligence*, visit <http://www.di.net>.

The University of Arizona's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) has a long tradition of preparing students for the challenges of professional practice. The College's foundation of excellence has been fashioned from its respect for the characteristics of place and its involvement with communities. The Sonoran setting of the University offers CALA students and faculty inspiration and guidance in the study of delicate and unique environments worldwide. In the spirit of experimentation and inquiry, students, faculty and the community collectively learn, discover and benefit. For more information about CALA, please visit our new website at cala.arizona.edu, e-mail cala@u.arizona.edu or phone (520) 621-6751.

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Lonelle R. Rathje

Director of Development and Marketing
College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

The University of Arizona
1040 N. Olive Rd., 120b
P.O. Box 210075
Tucson, AZ 85721-0075

Office: 520.626.3629

Cell: 520.954.5966

Fax: 520.621.8700

Lonelle@u.arizona.edu

Visit us at cala.arizona.edu