

**Brief Statement > Alfredo Fernandez-Gonzalez**

ARCC has had a profound impact on my academic trajectory. As a graduate student at the University of Oregon, I was a recipient of the King Student Medal. A few years later, while teaching at Ball State University, my paper “How Small is Too Small? Investigating the Use of Scaled Prototypes to Research Thermal Comfort in Buildings” was selected by ARCC as Best Paper of the Year. These awards, and the invaluable opportunities provided by ARCC to exchange ideas and advance the knowledge base of the architectural profession, were instrumental in helping to propel my research agenda and establish the Natural Energies Advanced Technologies (NEAT) Laboratory at UNLV. The transformative mission of ARCC and its goal to facilitate the development of an architectural research culture, including the exchange and transfer of knowledge, align well with the set of values I have cherished and advocated for during more than twenty years of teaching at higher education institutions in the United States. I believe that academic institutions are largely responsible for advancing our profession’s knowledge base and for creating a framework to teach evidence-based design to our students. The evolution of our academic culture must also serve our profession, as it continues its own radical transformation. For the reasons stated above, I wish to actively serve on the ARCC Board and contribute to the fulfillment of its important mission. I believe that my professional and academic leadership and service experiences can positively contribute to the initiatives currently pursued by the ARCC Board. The work that ARCC started in 1976 is as relevant today as it was when the organization was created. The anticipated rapid transformation of our built environment needs to be informed by evidence and research. If elected to serve in the ARCC Board, I will try to expand the reach and mission of ARCC to academic institutions in the Global South to ensure that the next generation of architects worldwide is well informed and ready to tackle the challenges of rapid global urbanization.