

Subject: Nomination for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2025 – Mark Diekmann

Dear AIA Ohio Submission Review Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Mark Diekmann for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award. Mark exemplifies the spirit of this honor through his unwavering dedication to mentorship, his leadership within the architectural profession, and his far-reaching impact on the next generation of design professionals.

Throughout his career at Hasenstab Architects and in his extensive involvement with the ACE Mentor Program and Akron Public Schools Firestone CLC Career Academy, Mark has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to guiding and uplifting others. His mentorship extends well beyond the boundaries of the firm, reaching students, emerging professionals, and peers across the broader architectural community.

Mark's influence is particularly evident in his work with the ACE Mentor Program, where he has served not only as a mentor but also as a lead mentor, often stepping in to support schools in need, ensuring that no student is left without guidance. His ability to connect with young people, share his knowledge, and inspire curiosity about the built environment has left a lasting impression on countless aspiring architects, engineers, and construction professionals.

What truly sets Mark apart is his patient and empowering mentoring style. He provides guidance without micromanaging, allowing mentees the space to grow, explore, and succeed on their own terms. This trust-based approach fosters confidence and independence, enabling those he mentors to take ownership of their development while knowing they have his full support.

Within our firm, Mark is known as a thoughtful and generous mentor. He fosters a culture of collaboration, attention to detail, and continuous learning. For the past thirteen years, I have personally benefited from his guidance, learning essential professional skills, such as organization and effective communication, and gaining confidence in my own path. His mentorship is not limited to technical instruction; it is rooted in a genuine investment in the personal and professional growth of others.

Mark's passion for architecture is matched by his commitment to the future of the profession. He encourages innovation, embraces new ideas, and challenges his mentees to think critically and creatively. His leadership has helped shape a more inclusive and forward-thinking architectural community.

In recognition of his exemplary service, leadership, and the profound impact he has made through mentorship, I wholeheartedly recommend Mark Diekmann for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award. His contributions embody the values of the AIA and serve as a model for mentorship in our profession.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Sincerely,



Amber Duco, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Associate
Hasenstab Architects, Inc.
190 N Union Street, Suite 400
Akron, OH 44304



AIA Ohio
Board of Directors
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road
Suite 120
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Dear AIA Ohio Officers and Directors,

On behalf of AIA Akron, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write to acknowledge and support the nomination of Mark Diekmann, AIA, as a candidate for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Mark has long been a pillar of mentorship within our chapter and the broader architectural community. His steadfast commitment to guiding emerging professionals, fostering inclusive learning environments, and generously sharing his wealth of knowledge has left a lasting impact on countless individuals. Mark has also taken it upon himself to work with high school students, educating them on what the profession entails.

His knowledge base is not only in design, but in the true sense of an Architect with an understanding of mechanical and electrical systems that support a building. This knowledge is transferred to those he interacts with, creating better designers. Whether through one-on-one mentorship or leadership in professional development initiatives, Mark exemplifies the spirit of this award.

His dedication to nurturing the next generation of architects reflects the highest ideals of our profession. Mark's influence extends beyond technical guidance—he inspires confidence, encourages curiosity, and models integrity in every interaction.

We are honored to count Mark among our members and are thrilled to see his contributions recognized at the state level. AIA Akron wholeheartedly supports his candidacy and believes he is most deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Morschl".

Jonathan Morschl, Associate AIA
AIA Akron 2025 President

June 30, 2025

AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honors Awards Jury

Re: Letter of Support – Mark Diekmann, AIA for AIA Ohio Mentor Award

Dear AIA Ohio Board of Directors,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Mark Diekmann, AIA, as a candidate for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Mark is the embodiment of a true mentor within our profession. His dedication to nurturing the next generation of architects at Hasenstab Architects and within the broader architectural community has left a lasting and meaningful impact on countless emerging professionals across Ohio.

Mark has a gift for making himself approachable, creating a welcoming environment where young architects feel encouraged to ask questions, explore solutions, and grow in confidence. Whether he is walking through a code question, sketching out a detail, or discussing career paths, Mark's steady guidance is grounded in patience and a genuine desire to see others succeed. His door is always open, and he consistently takes the time to share his knowledge while empowering others to find their own voice in the profession.

Beyond the walls of our office, Mark actively engages with students through his involvement with the ACE Mentor Program within the Akron Public Schools, where he guides high school students exploring careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. His encouragement has helped many young people gain confidence as they consider entering the design and construction professions, carrying forward the values of integrity, technical rigor, and collaborative spirit that Mark demonstrates daily.

On a personal note, Mark has been a mentor to me for over 20 years, beginning when I was an intern. He took the time to teach me not just technical skills, but how to navigate challenges with integrity and how to advocate for quality design while balancing the realities of practice. His support and guidance have been instrumental in my growth, and his encouragement has been a steady presence throughout my career. I am grateful for the countless hours Mark invested in answering questions, providing feedback, and offering perspective that has shaped who I am as an architect and leader with in our firm today.

Mark does all of this quietly, without expectation of recognition, simply because he believes it is his responsibility to give back to the profession and ensure its continued strength. The culture of mentorship he has fostered has elevated not only our office but also the profession within our community.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support Mark Diekmann's nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award. His commitment to the growth and development of young architects is worthy of recognition, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brandilyn Fry, AIA, FCSI
Associate
Hasenstab Architects
brandif@hasenstabinc.com

June 30, 2025

AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honors Awards Jury

Re: Letter of Support – Mark Diekmann, AIA for AIA Ohio Mentor Award

Dear AIA Ohio Submission Review Committee,

If you were to ask anyone at Hasenstab Architects who the ideal project manager is, the answer would probably be synonymous; Mark Diekmann. What makes him a great project manager you may ask? At its core, it is the way he has and continues to mentor those who have the privilege to work with him, myself included. Therefore, it is with great admiration that I would like to support Mark Diekmann's nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

In the practice of architecture, there are often design challenges for which there can be many solutions. Mark does not lead via micromanaging but rather encourages design team members to explore possible solutions on their own. Through his mentorship and attention to detail, he reviews these solutions and guides members to what the best solution for the project is while providing the 'why'. This guidance is delivered without arrogance and with continued encouragement. This allows those members gain confidence and to grow exponentially in the practice as they are thinking through solutions themselves, rather than being handed the information each time.

Whether working on a project directly with Mark, or separate projects for which Mark may have insight, he has always made himself available to answer questions and provide feedback. Mark enjoys helping others, and he is eager to find solutions even if it means setting aside his own work to provide guidance. This extends beyond the practice of architecture and into personal life as well. Mark genuinely cares about those he works with.

Mark embodies what it means to be a mentor through his selflessness, dedication, attention to detail, creativity, listening skills, and his passion for guiding project team members throughout the life of a project. In recognition of this, I would like to support his nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Regan Everhard, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Hasenstab Architects, Inc.
190 N. Union St, Suite 400
Akron, OH 44304

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express my recommendation for Mark Diekmann, AIA to be awarded the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Mark is a long-time Project Manager here at Hasenstab Architects, and a recognized leader in our Lab/Research studio for both staff and clients.

Mark joined Hasenstab Architects in 2000 after a successful stint with his own firm, Diekmann Zezulewicz Architects, and many formative years with legacy Akron firm Peterson Raeder. From this experience, Mark gained a broad view of our profession from an employee role to management to ownership, allowing a well-rounded perspective. This perspective includes unparalleled technical knowledge, excellent project management skills within the office, and the ability to effectively manage consultants, contractors, and clients in the project context.

Mark's manner is quiet confidence, borne of his accumulation of experiences. He is extremely approachable and accommodating of younger staff, as well as more seasoned professionals who seek his advice. His level-headed approach is a great example to aspiring professionals, as are his organizational skills.

Although Mark counts many years in the profession, he is very open to new processes and programs that the office may be promoting. This openness to, and facility with, new initiatives is a great example to others in the office.

His approachability, accumulated wisdom, and sense of humor make Mark an office asset and worthy candidate for this mentor award.

Sincerely,

HASENSTAB ARCHITECTS, INC.



Dennis Check
Principal

Mark Diekmann

AIA

Project Manager



Mark has more than 41 years of experience in programming, master planning, building assessments, and multi-departmental design coordination. He has been responsible for laboratory design projects for complex renovations and new construction. For the past 25 years, he has been an instrumental team member at Hasenstab Architects.

Whether providing guidance to young architects or mentoring high school students, Mark fosters an inclusive and inspiring learning environment in both professional and volunteer settings. It is difficult to quantify how many individuals he has impacted within the Hasenstab Architects family. He truly embodies the characteristics of an exceptional mentor, impacting those who work along side him and those who simply work within the same building.

Mark volunteers at multiple organizations in the Akron Community where he empowers students regardless of background to pursue careers in the built environment. His mentorship extends beyond structured sessions, offering guidance on college applications, career pathways, and industry networking. His ability to connect with students and ignite a passion for the industry has resulted in numerous success stories, with many mentees pursuing degrees and careers in design and construction fields.

Education

- Kent State University, Bachelor of Architecture, 1982

Registrations

- State of Ohio Architect License #ARC.9109644

Affiliations

- ACE Mentor Program, Mentor (2021-2025)
- American Institute of Architects (AIA) Akron Chapter
- Akron Public Schools Firestone CLC - Career Academy Advisory Board Member

Total Experience: 41 Years

At Hasenstab: 25 Years

Countless employees at Hasenstab Architects have been impacted by Mark. In an effort to provide the magnitude of his reach, the following is a list of individuals Mark has guided and mentored over his 25 years.

Edward Paine, Brian Shulz, Nicholas Olechnowicz, Christopher Betts, Brian Miner, Jeffery Shuey, Daniel Herstine, Susan Kirkhope, Jennifer Stahl, Corey Yurkovich, Francis Hill, Stefanie Smith, Bradley Barbee, Christopher Paulin, Lucas Kraft, Azure Logsdon, Heather Yellen, John Brown, Jonathan Cooper, Benjamin Rantilla, Brandilyn Fry-Maibach, Geoffrey Ward, Robert Gaskill Jr., Joshua Haney, Justin Beagan, Vincent Rosato, Dan Gardinsky, Tom Walker, Tina Kessel, Lauren Wagar, Nino Samardzic, Timothy Coerver, Michael Kessel, John Collett, Scott Radcliff, Lucas Moore, Amber Duco, Juliana Kaderbek, Nick Davis, Bryan Ziga, Regan Everhard, Kristina Samara, Philip Erb, Elizabeth Posadas, Benjamin Seger, Natalie Shellhorn, Sarah Connors, John Stouffer III, Nathaniel Holland, Logan Ali, Bruce Wolff, Jeannette Pastrana, Joseph Norman, Daniel Armagno, Olivia Adkins, Brandi Miller, Rick Mansfield, Dani Gordon



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Mentorship Experience

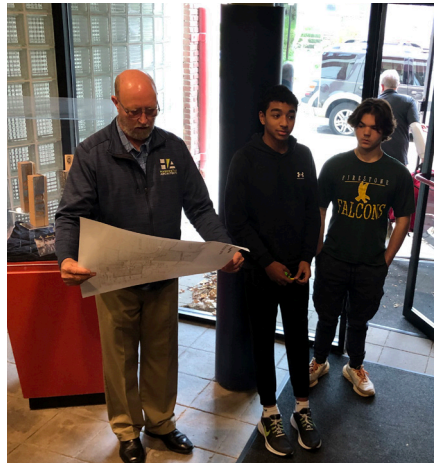
Akron Public Schools

Firestone Community Learning Center – Career Academy Advisory Board Member (Architecture Pathway)

Mark has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to mentoring the next generation of design and construction professionals. Through his role with the Advisory Board of the design academy at Firestone Community Learning Center, he has been instrumental in guiding students toward careers in architecture, engineering, and construction. Mark dedicates his time and expertise to shaping educational opportunities that expose high school students to real-world applications of design and construction principles. He has actively contributed to curriculum development, participated in panel discussions, and led hands-on workshops that bridge the gap between classroom learning and professional practice.



Working with students during an industry field trip to Hasenstab Architects.



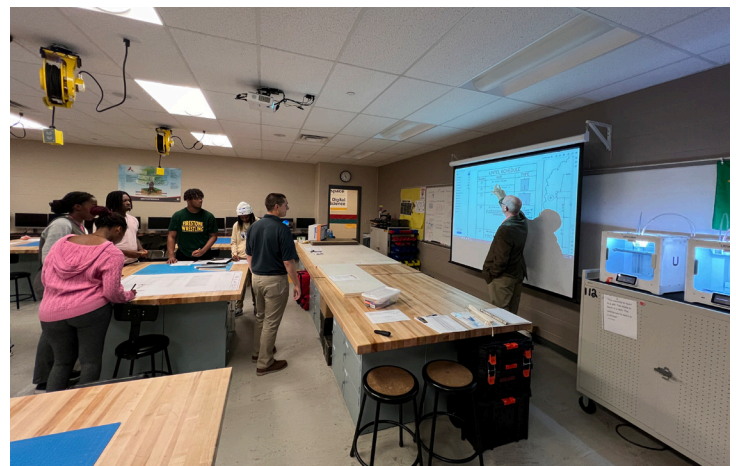
Contributing to a career exploration expo.

ACE Mentorship

ACE Program of Greater Akron-Canton – Mentor

Mark has been a mentor with the ACE Mentor Program since 2021. From the moment he began his mentoring journey, he has been fully engaged with the students, offering his expertise, support, and encouragement. In his very first year as a mentor, Mark took on the role of lead mentor at Firestone CLC, demonstrating his natural leadership abilities and dedication to the program's mission. In this role, he not only organizes the activities for each mentorship session, but he also coordinates and communicates with the other mentor volunteers. In 2024, he was poised to take on the role of lead mentor again; however, that year another school found itself without a lead mentor. Knowing Firestone CLC was well taken care of by the mentors he had organized, he selflessly stepped in to fill the gap, ensuring that the students at Akron Early College received the guidance and mentorship they needed.

Mark has also been engaged with the Program Committee, offering feedback and preparing activities for all five schools in the program to utilize. He was most recently awarded Outstanding Mentor of the Year in April 2025 for his exceptional leadership within the program. The pages that follow are letters of support written by students he has mentored.



Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Andréa Johnson, I am a junior at Akron Early College High School. For the past five months, I have had the pleasure of working with Mark Diekmann through the ACE Mentorship Program. During our time together, Mark has demonstrated exceptional teaching abilities, profound knowledge in his field of architecture, and a genuine passion for helping students.

Mark consistently creates an engaging learning environment that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and meaningful discussion. His commitment to fostering an inclusive atmosphere has made a long lasting impact on all students in the program. As a mentor, Mark has guided us through architectural design challenges such as technical sketches and dimensions. What sets Mark apart is his ability to cater to diverse learning styles ensures that every student is supported and empowered to achieve their full potential. Whether it was revising floor plans, promoting creative design, or ensuring the design met the guidelines, Mark has shown exceptional skills.

Mark possesses the qualities and experience needed to honor his hard work. I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically recommend him for the ACE Outstanding Mentor and Exemplary School Champion Award.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andréa Johnson
Akron Early College High School
stu223806@apslearns.org

Date: 2/12/2025

To whom it may concern:

My name is Zach, and I want to take a moment to recommend my mentor, Mark Diekmann for ACE mentor of the year. Mark and ACE was one of the best influences in my life.

Mark is super patient and always takes the time to explain things I don't understand, and he answers all my questions in a way that makes sense. He's not just a mentor; he's someone who really helps students discover their passions and shows us how architects and engineers work together to create awesome projects.

I used to be terrified of speaking in front of crowds, but Mark has been amazing in helping me tackle that fear. Little by little, I've gotten better, thanks to him. He taught me different presentation techniques and how to manage my nerves when I'm up there speaking. I really appreciate everything he's done for me. I hope he is selected.

Sincerely,

Zachary Tate

Date: 2/12/2025

To whom it may concern:

My name is Aaron, and I want to shout out Mark Diekmann for being one of the best mentors I've ever had.

He introduced me to some awesome new design techniques that really sparked my interest since I'm very passionate about drawing and sketching. Mark helped me so much, especially when it came to dealing with my nervousness about presenting in front of a big crowd for the first time. He even helped me land an internship! Plus, he taught me how to practice my speeches and gave me great suggestions on how to organize our presentations and decide the best order for our slides. I'm really grateful for everything he's done for me and my team. I am currently attending Kent State where I have totally immersed myself in the world of design. I couldn't have done it without the ACE program.

Sincerely- Aaron Porter

Date: 2/12/2025

To Whom it may concern:

Hello! My name is Elon Zhu, and I've been part of the ACE program for about two years now at Firestone High School. I also attended the summer camp for ACE, which was an awesome experience. I'm writing this letter to recommend my mentor, Mark Diekmann, who has been an incredible support for me in my journey of exploring future career choices.

Mark has shown me what it takes to be an architect, engineer, and construction professional. Last year, he guided me in creating 3D models of mini homes for ACE. His insights on furniture placement, its various uses, and the essential requirements for the building were invaluable. What I appreciate most about Mark is his patience; he really takes the time to help me grasp concepts that I initially found challenging. Instead of just telling me what to do, he offers advice that allows me to learn and discover things on my own. He's truly a great mentor, and I'm grateful for all he's done for me.

Sincerely,

Elon Zhu