



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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#### Board Members

August 6, 2024

##### Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA  
LAAB Secretary  
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University of Nevada Las Vegas

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University of Texas at Austin

M. Margaret Bryant, Ph.D., ASLA  
Associate Professor and Interim Chair  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
1 Forestry Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13210-2787

##### Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA  
Duke University

Dale Jaeger, FASLA, PLA  
LAAB Chair-Elect  
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Bryant,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2024, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2026, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

##### Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams  
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA  
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen  
University of Miami School of Law

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance, when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) from this Final Action Letter in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Accreditation Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer-term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Final Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

##### ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP  
MIG

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2030. Accordingly, the MLA program at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2030.

##### CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA  
LAAB Chair  
Pennsylvania State University

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

##### CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
Mark Thomas

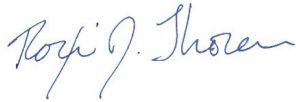
##### Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roxi" and last name "Thoren" clearly distinguishable.

Roxi Thoren, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Joanne (Joanie) M. Mahoney, Esq, President

**SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry**  
**MLA Program**  
**LAAB Meeting**  
**July 10, 2024**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop a plan to produce a diverse applicant pool for the next faculty hire in order to maintain diversity of faculty, faculty-student ratio, and required senior faculty representation on T&P committee, as well as share in College and Departmental service (Standard 2).
2. Revise and update the MLA theory, methodology, and capstone sequence to ensure clear and consistent research theory; selection and application of appropriate research methods; placement of work within an existing body of knowledge and articulation of the contribution of new knowledge to the profession to address current and future challenges (Standard 3m).
3. Require structural considerations and engineering concepts in MLA course materials and evaluate them in MLA student work (Standard 3m).
4. Improve the theory, methods, and capstone sequence, focusing on new knowledge generated by the student work, in order to elevate the quality and rigor of the capstone projects (Standard 3m).
5. Audit and update internal policies and procedures related to diversity, equity and inclusion in order to continue to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the faculty ranks during the next faculty search (Standard 5).

# **Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

## **Interim Report**

**Submitted By:**

**Submission Date:**

### **Section 1.**

**Name of Institution:**

**Name of Department:**

**Name of Program:**

**Date of Decision Letter:**

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### **Section 2.**

**Recommendation Affecting Accreditation:** (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

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### **Section 3.**

**Action Taken by Program:** (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

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### **Section 4.**

**Prior Action Taken by Program:** (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)