

# AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Application

For

*Jennifer Rittler, AIA*

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June 10, 2020

AIA Ohio Board of Directors  
400 West Wilson Bridge Road  
Suite 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

Dear AIA Ohio Board of Directors,

With excitement, I am delighted to nominate Jennifer Rittler for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. In an industry hinged on the strength and determination of young professionals, she is inspiring the industry with her **Leadership in Practice** and **Service**. An endorsement as AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award fuels her future growth and influence in the industry.

### **Leadership in Practice**

At Moody Nolan, Jennifer is instrumental in implementing leadership strategies that help the firm grow. As a key team member of the Sports & Recreation Studio, she was project architect lead for her market's highest gross fee project in 2017, which was a new Recreation and Fitness Center for Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. By leading many aspects of design and client relationship, she organized design team deliverables as the first Public Private Partnership undertaken by the University. Jennifer's leadership helped navigate a successful value engineering process for the project providing over \$1M dollars in cost savings to the \$33M project; while remaining focused on high quality design solution. She is committed to exceeding business goals for her clients and her company.

### **Service**

In parallel with her project work, Jennifer tirelessly advocates for young professionals in Columbus. She cofounded AIA Columbus ARCHway in 2018, which is an innovative program for mentorship and leadership development for Columbus design professionals including business owners, architects, interior designers and landscape architects. As a participant in the program, I witnessed how she is shaping the future of the profession, advancing collaborative practice models, and guiding the Columbus design community to advance together.

Jennifer takes on projects with a positive attitude and consistently exhibits her leadership abilities. As her managing director, I am thoroughly impressed with her professionalism, creativity and influence. Her remarkable impact in the practice of architecture highlights her as a reputable candidate for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

Best Regards,



Troy Sherrard, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP  
Partner / Sports + Recreation Architecture





AIA Ohio Board of Directors  
400 West Wilson Bridge Road  
Suite 120  
Worthington, OH 43085

June 9, 2020

Dear AIA Ohio Board of Directors,

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Columbus  
50 West Town Street, Suite 110  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

T (614) 469-1973

[www.aiacolumbus.org](http://www.aiacolumbus.org)

On behalf of the Columbus Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, I enthusiastically recommend Jennifer Rittler for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. Jennifer's passion for wellness and education of communities is apparent through her involvement in AIA Columbus. Her contemplative planning techniques set a framework for maximizing outreach and advocacy for the growing Columbus community. She clearly demonstrates exemplary achievements in Service and Leadership Practice for the future of AIA Ohio members.

Jennifer has been a member of our Chapter since 2015, and during that time she has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in our chapter, our local community, and around the nation. Jennifer is currently serving as the secretary on our Chapter's Board of Directors, as well as a member of multiple committees, all in the service of our membership of over 650 Central Ohio architects and design professionals. Jennifer reaches those beyond our architectural community by helping to build understanding of what the career entails for young people by volunteering with the Center for Architecture and Design's "Camp Architecture" program. Camp Architecture provides week-long sessions for elementary through high school aged children to experiment with creativity, learn how the design process progresses, and understand how design impacts their communities.

Jennifer is the first African-American female board member and has proven herself to be a catalyst for positive change by working to develop "ARCHway", a professional leadership and mentoring program for young architects. Now in its second term, we're seeing emerging professionals from the first year of the program starting to step up and take on leadership roles whether it be in the firms they're employed by or throughout committees of our professional organization. For her work on ARCHway, Jennifer was awarded the 2018 AIA Columbus President's Award. Her design work has been featured in a national exhibition, called "Say it LOUD", featuring female and minority architects' work from around the nation. Regionally, ENR Midwest recognized Jennifer as 'top young professionals' youngest honoree of 2019.

Jennifer's wide range of experiences and influences are what make her a great candidate for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. We are all enriched by our association with her.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Vala, Jr.".

Michael J. Vala, Jr. AIA, NCARB  
AIA Columbus President, 2020

Jennifer Rittler, AIA shows a tremendous amount of determination to revolutionize the architecture industry through her Leadership in Practice and Service.

### **Leadership in Practice**

Jennifer leads the development of designs that become wellness landmarks for communities across the country. Through a collaborative approach to design she integrates client/community feedback that infuse architecture with local authenticity.

As a key team member of Moody Nolan, Jennifer was primary project lead for the creation of a new Recreation and Fitness Center for Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. Jennifer consistently focused the design to broaden participation in on-campus activities, function as a student-centered hub, offer co-curricular employment, and foster on-campus community. She collaboratively expedited the design process, which ultimately reduced project delivery time, simplified management and provided cost savings to the project. The success of the innovative design doubled quarterly visits to the center and supported a jump in campus enrollment of 6%. She is committed to exceeding business goals for her clients and her company.

Promoted to Senior Associate in 2018, Jennifer organized a committee to evaluate and propose a new structure to increase licensed professionals at her firm. Her team secured over \$93,000 in benefits and incentives, and to date this effort tripled the annual amount of newly licensed architects at Moody Nolan. She is passionate about fostering mentorship and professional development of future leaders.

### **Service**

In parallel with her project work, Jennifer tirelessly advocates for young professionals in Columbus. Through her dedication to AIA and other professional organizations she is a champion of serving her community.

Jennifer cofounded AIA Columbus ARCHway in 2018, which is an innovative model of mentorship and leadership development for Columbus design professionals. The program connects emerging professionals with firm leaders fostering leadership development in the architectural community. The program is built around an innovative practice model focused on inclusive collaboration and infused with equitable principles and platforms for growth. Her achievements as Director culminated to her appointment to Secretary for AIA Columbus' Executive Committee in 2020.

Building upon her local foundation, she also serves on AIA National Center for Leadership Committee. Her enthusiasm for representing Columbus at a National level is an exciting opportunity to highlight her city and state to architects across the country. She currently is developing a national leadership training event to be held in fall 2020. Expected attendance is over 400 virtual participants and generate over \$60,000 in revenue. She is passionate about growing the skills of leaders, while creating a sustainable financial model for continued success. Jennifer has a strong motivational platform and her impact continues to propel her and lead the industry into the future.

**Leadership in Practice**  
through excellence in  
delivering collaborative  
design models for recreation  
/ wellness design



Role: Project Architect, for a new \$33M student recreation center. Facility is 103,000 SF including fitness areas, gymnasiums and climbing wall.



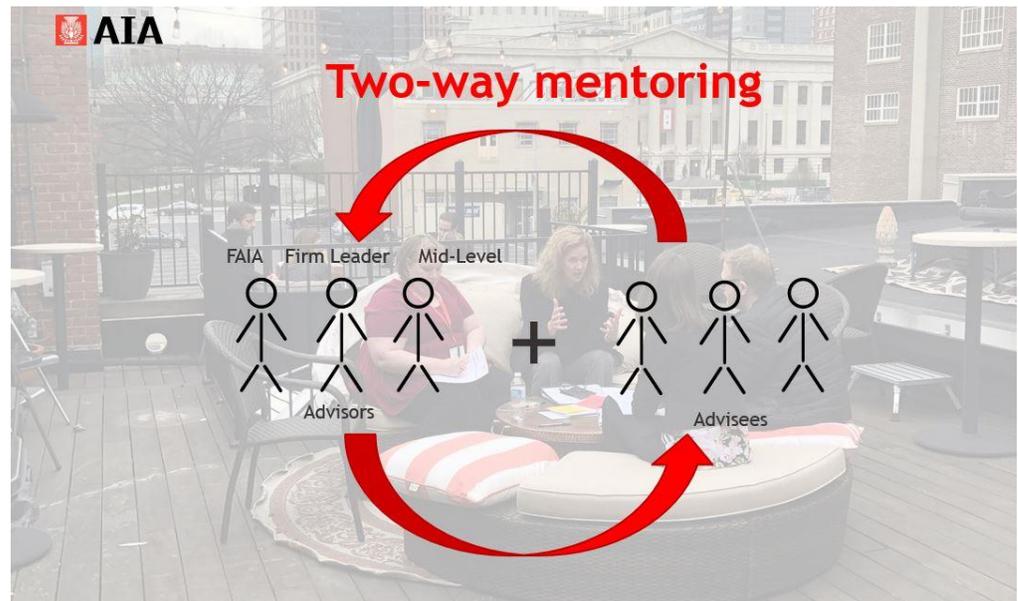
2020 NIRSA (National Intermural-Recreational Sports Association) Outstanding Facilities Award

Sources: Moody Nolan, Campus Rec

**Service** to AIA in advocacy for professional development of emerging professionals



Role: Cofounder, for AIA Columbus ARCHway connecting young architects with firm leaders in the Columbus architectural community. Jennifer received 2018 AIA Columbus’ President’s Award for her vision and development of the ARCHway program.



ARCHway forms mentorship groups consisting of “Advisees” and “Advisors,” whom engage in discussion. It is a comprehensive approach to mentorship that also focuses on developing networking skills for both emerging talent and seasoned professionals through six interactive sessions.

Sources: AIA Columbus

Summary and Award recognizing Jennifer’s achievement in **Leadership in Practice and Service**



“Working from home I’ve learned to schedule conference calls during my kids’ nap time. I developed more forgiveness for myself during these challenging times. In such a busy household with a 16-month-old son, a 3 ½-year-old daughter, and a working husband, there is little quiet time. I have a better appreciation the moments where I can break away and recharge.”

## Transforming the Industry

**Jennifer Rittler**  
Senior associate, Moody Nolan

Image: Photo: Sam Snow/Moody Nolan | Host Graphic: Columbus Business First

In an industry that lacks diversity, Jennifer shows a tremendous amount of determination to increase inclusion of minority women designers in architecture. Upon her numerous accolades, she is revolutionizing the industry with her design talents as well as her passion for mentorship. Her impact extends beyond the city of Columbus and reaches a national audience. Jennifer plays a vital role in the leadership of her company’s recreation projects and is a firm believer in promoting wellness in communities.

Her positive attitude is key to building and maintaining client relationships. She is instrumental in implementing financial and human resources at Moody Nolan that have helped the firm grow into the nation’s largest and most award winning African American owned design firm in the country. An endorsement as 40 under 40 fuels her future growth and impact in the industry.

Sources: Columbus Business First, LinkedIn

Thank you