

# AIA-New Mexico—SPEAKER SUBMITTAL for 2013 CONFERENCE

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## **Title:**

**Contents May Have Shifted [linking campus + city]**

## **Seminar Description:**

The city is an organism, evolving, degenerating and regenerating. A complex network of dynamic forces constantly tests the structure of the city itself. Survival of the city is dependent on its capacity to adapt over time. Change comes in infinite variety. It is political, economic, environmental and cultural. It can occur quickly and violently or emerge gradually over a long period. The urban landscape must simultaneously provide stability while remaining adaptive. A city can only be as stable or elastic as the sum of its parts. Individual components, or cell clusters, form a network of nodes and linkages that allow the urban fabric to flex and hold in synchronization. It is specifically the organic nature of this approach, in contradiction to the formal monotony of Euclidean geometry that the city itself comes to life; moving, breathing, changing...in perpetuity.

The Rio Grande Campus of the El Paso Community College is situated in the beating heart of the organism. The campus is poised to be the missing link in the ongoing efforts to activate the urban core of our city. While El Paso struggles with rampant sprawl across the West Texas desert, a unique opportunity lies within its borders. The Rio Grande Campus Master plan is the catalyst for the next evolution of our city.

## **Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

1. Comparative analysis of the impact large scale public facilities have on the urban landscape within two apparently different cities. (New York City, New York vs El Paso, Texas)
2. Identification of dynamic political, economic, environmental and cultural forces that influence urban form
3. Identification of a variety of design intervention possibilities at both the macro and micro scale.
4. Understanding of the influence of the built environment on the revitalization of the city core

## **Format:**

60-90 minute seminar.

## **HSW Content:**

## **Experience of Audience:**

Intermediate

## **Program Delivery Method:**

Lecture w/Q&A

## **Speaker Information:**

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**Biological Narrative including speaking experience [100 words]:**

Nicole Ferrini is twice a graduate of Texas Tech University. She holds degrees in both interior design and architecture and is currently preparing to pursue a masters degree in Real Estate + Development. From creating healthy, effective environments as an interior designer, to designing buildings that meet the highest LEED standards, Nicole has spent her career building better communities. Nicole has also established herself as a community leader, participating passionately with various organizations committed to global sustainability. Nicole is a founding member of the USGBC Chihuahuan Desert Chapter, Eco El Paso Founding Board Member and member of the Congress for New Urbanism. Through her work with these organizations, Nicole has worked to raise the bar for design and provoke a new conversation among civic leaders, industry professionals and the community at large. She notably served as LEED Project Manager for the City of El Paso's first LEED certified building. It achieved LEED Gold. Nicole continues to work toward improving the built environment by lecturing around the country on the topics of architecture, urbanism and sustainability.