

ARE CHALLENGE HALF-WAY UPDATE!

This year, AIA Michigan has captured our ambitious associates pursuing licensure in our ARE Challenge Program. Bench-marked on other successful programs, this Exam Prep Program is about creating an exam cohort, yet small local study groups. The biggest hurdle to passing the exams is in fact scheduling to sit for them.

Officially at the half-way point, we are seeing many successes among are candidates.

To-date:

40 challenge participants from across the state

4 Sections offered live [Detroit + Mid-Michigan Chapter]

20+ Exams Passed to date [not all participants reporting]

Our Challenge Drawing Winner is James Witman, Associate AIA, at Ghafari Associates L.L.C., we interviewed James to give our membership insight into the program:

Q: How many exams have you passed so far?

A: I've passed 3: Building Design and Construction Systems (tough!), Structural Systems, and Construction Documents and Services.

Q: Were you hesitant to start the exams?

A: Very! I didn't think I had enough work experience to pass the exams. Support from friends, family, coworkers, and ARE Challenge participants gave me the courage to get started. Once I did, I realized the exams aren't that bad and scary after all.

Q: Why were you attracted to the ARE Challenge Program?

A: I knew that I should start taking the exams, but I had no idea where to get started. The ARE Challenge helped me find the resources that I needed and gave me a structure and schedule for taking the exams.

Q: What are the best methods for you to study?

A: After reading through the Kaplan and Ballast review books, I meet with some friends to take a practice exam together. As we grade our tests, we discuss the questions we got wrong, why we chose the answer we did, and how to remember the correct answer. This method lets us pull from each other's knowledge and experience and encourages us to stay on track with studying.

Q: Any advice to other testing candidates out there?

A: Be prepared to dedicate a lot of time to preparing for each exam. It is a really big commitment, but it will be worth it once you get licensed!