

Michelle is one of Champlin's senior interior designers. She is a mentor, a leader, and advocates for a collaborative and inclusive design process. Serving as one of the leaders of IIDA's student outreach team since she joined the organization in 2011, she provides a connection between students and design firms. Michelle continuously interacts with both students and employers to help grow and develop the profession. A client team leader and the leader of our firm's interior design department, Michelle's passion is being a conduit between architecture, interior design, and graphic design disciplines – advocating for integrated design teams on every project. She has taken this connection to AIA Cincinnati, where she has served on the CDA (Cincinnati Design Awards) committee for over 11 years, and is currently one of the chairpersons. She was a catalyst in the inception of a student award category for 2022. Michelle has been a great resource for the entire design community, which is tight knit in our region. She promotes collaboration among designers and believes that although members are competitors, they all have to bond together to advocate for interior design having a seat at the table. Every interaction an interior designer has on a project is crucial to the profession and Michelle strives to build a culture of design excellence at Champlin as well as a community of support for the profession. Michelle's quote speaks to her passion for advocacy: "I believe advocating for the integrity, enrichment, and continued advancement of the interior design profession should be of the utmost importance for all of us who have chosen to design the built environment, protect its occupants, and enhance the user's experience within the spaces we create. This is paramount, not for the purpose of self- preservation of our profession, but rather for educating, bridging, and elevating the public's understanding of the responsibility, influence, and value interior designers provide within the industry."

Mentoring others is also a passion for Michelle. Having been fortunate to have some amazing mentors throughout her career, Michelle gives back by sharing her knowledge with the next generation of interior designers. She is also one of Champlin Architecture's main connections to the interior design department at every local university. She is part of our recruiting team and participates in career fairs, charrettes, and crits across the country. One of her mentees at Champlin, Heather Hemmer, says this "I have known Michelle for only a few years but I have come to rely and depend on her advice, as a mentor and role model. My reliance is well-placed and is shared by our interiors team at Champlin and even around the design community and the numerous boards she serves on. She is the type of mentor who wants you to fulfill your own goals, and helps you strive for perfection. Michelle is tough, caring and a remarkable educator. She has fostered my personal and professional growth as I witnessed her first as a mentee, and now a team member."