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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 21, 2025**

[**Link to Images**](https://iida.org/submissions/2025-iida-student-design-competition?utm_source=pressrelease&utm_medium=pressrelease)

**IIDA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE   
12TH ANNUAL STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION**

**CHICAGO**  — The **International Interior Design Association** (IIDA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Student Design Competition, sponsored by OFS and Carolina. The annual competition allows design students to highlight their creativity and vision while also gathering insights and experience with leaders of the industry. This year’s design challenge asked entrants to design an innovative pediatric primary care clinic focusing on behavioral health.

“These students showcased amazing creativity and professional skills they should all be proud of,” said IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO, **Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA**. “Thanks to the enduring support of the industry and our educators, this competition shows the importance of a strong design education and creative problem solving skills to make challenges like these valuable for the future talent of our profession.”

Entries were juried by a panel of design professionals including Page Principal and Interior Design Director **Amy Burmaster Hicks, IIDA**; HDR Senior Interior Designer, **Patricia Paulson**; Gresham Smith Interior Designer, Healthcare, **Lakiesha Stanley, IIDA**; OFS Director of Design Strategy, **Maria VanDeman, Ind. IIDA**; and HGA Vice President and Principal, **Paul Widlarz, AIA.**

“The winning projects demonstrated a thoughtful balance of the essence of the space and technicality, a crucial approach when designing for the behavioral health environment,” said **Stanley** on behalf of the jury. “We were particularly impressed by the first-place design’s careful consideration, resulting in a space that is both visually compelling and emotionally nurturing.”

**The 2025 Student Design Competition winners are:**

**First Place**

LeAnne Hlavka

Interior Designers Institute, Newport Beach, Calif.

**Project:** Sunshine: Day 1 Behavioral Health Clinic

**Second Place**

Leah Ferry

Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

**Project:** Path to Balance: A Healing Environment for Behavioral Health

**Third Place**

Katie Becher

Samantha Crown

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.

**Project:** Vantage Point Behavioral Clinic

**Honorable Mention**

Michael Hernandez Reyes

Hailey Reicks

Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Project:** Healing Through Connection Center

OFS and Carolina provide the first, second, and third place winners with a financial prize of $2,500, $1,500, and $750 respectively. All Student Design Competition winning projects can be viewed [here](https://iida.org/submissions/2025-iida-student-design-competition?utm_source=pressrelease&utm_medium=pressrelease).

For more information or questions in regard to this or other IIDA design competitions, please contact [competitions@IIDA.org](mailto:competitions@IIDA.org).

​​**ABOUT IIDA**

IIDA is the commercial interior design association with global reach. We support design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through our global network of members across 58 countries. We advocate for advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to increase the value and understanding of interior design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well- being of people’s lives every day. [IIDA.org](https://iida.org/?utm_source=pressreleaseboiler&utm_medium=pressreleaseboiler).

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