



## Stefnee Trzpuc, CID, EDAC, LEED AP

Stefnee is a North Dakota native and 2002 graduate of NDSU's interior design program. Initially drawn to retail and hospitality design, she developed an interest in healthcare interiors while a student intern at BWBR in Saint Paul, Minnesota. After graduation, she joined BWBR as a full-time interior designer and spent several years working on health care, workplace, and science + technology projects throughout the Upper Midwest. After passing the NCIDQ examination and the required work experience, Stefnee became a Certified Interior Designer and pursued certifications as both a LEED AP and EDAC accredited professional.

Working at a design solutions firm, Stefnee was introduced to the many opportunities within the profession, including the emerging field of evidence-based design. With a desire to pursue this more technical, research-based aspect of practice, she enrolled in a master's program in design at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, from which she graduated in 2010, and simultaneously undertook the creation of a research and knowledge management program at BWBR.

In 2018, Stefnee was promoted to firm leadership. As a principal, she developed practice-based research projects and uses the findings to enhance design solutions for clients and foster knowledge sharing, both within and outside BWBR. Stefnee's work has been featured in publications including *Health Environments Research and Design Journal*, and she has presented at national conferences including Knowledge Architecture Connect. With a personal philosophy of "fail often, fail forward," she is an enthusiast for constant improvement and venturing down paths not yet paved. Her extreme passion for problem-solving also extends to the areas of business intelligence, technology, and organizational effectiveness, and now serves as BWBR's Director of Operations.

**Fail It Forward**  
May 2, 2018

Stefnee Trzpuc, Design Research and Knowledge Management Specialist, BWBR

**Talk Description**  
Culturally, we tend to celebrate successes, not failures. But what if we brought failures to the front of conversations? Sharing our own failures with others has broader organizational learning value. But it's not easy to be vulnerable in front of your peers. Stemming from an internal idea-generating workshop, BWBR staff developed "F15," a 15-minute storytelling format for sharing lessons learned from past failures.



Stefnee is incredibly grateful for the influential relationships she formed during her time at NDSU, and she continues to cultivate connections with her alma mater today. At BWBR, she hosts tours for NDSU students and has served as a juror for the annual BWBR Prize design competition for college students. Stefnee worked with NDSU interior design students and faculty (longtime mentor and Professor Susan Ray-Degges) on a post-occupancy study of the BWBR-designed A. Glenn Hill Center for STEM Education. Sitting in Prof. Ray-Degges' class as an undergrad and now partnering with her as a colleague fulfills an aspiration that is both personal and professional.

[Click here to learn more about Stefnee](#)

### Published Research Articles:

**Click on the research article title to view the article.**

Trzpuc SJ, Wendt KA, Heitzman SC, Skemp S, Thomas D, Dahl R. [Does Space Matter? An Exploratory Study for a Child-Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit](#). HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal. 2016;10(1):23-44. doi:10.1177/1937586716634017

Trzpuc SJ, Martin CS. [Application of Space Syntax Theory in the Study of Medical-Surgical Nursing Units in Urban Hospitals](#). HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal. 2010;4(1):34-55. doi:10.1177/193758671000400104

### Conference Presentations:

[Click here to view KA Connect Talks "Fail it Forward"](#)

[Click here to view KA Connect Talks "Push vs. Pull: A Simple Approach to Improve Knowledge Sharing"](#)

[Click here to view KA Connect Talks "Integrated Knowledge Flow: Enhancing Culture and Practice"](#)

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