March 4, 2010 — Edward H. Steinfeld, ArchD., AIA, founding board member of Global Universal Design Commission, Inc. (“GUDC”) and award-winning professor of architecture at the University at Buffalo (“UB”) School of Architecture and Planning, as well as the Founding Director of UB’s Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (“IDea Center”) will receive UB’s second annual Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence from University President John B. Simpson in recognition of his remarkable contributions to design practices and design-related policy.

Steinfeld, a UB faculty member since 1978, is internationally recognized as a distinguished leader in the field of inclusive design and environmental access. His research, which has focused on universal design, human factors, and social theory and design for over 40 years, continues to provide the framework for accessibility codes and regulations in the U.S. and throughout the world. Among his credits are over 100 publications, including a new book “Inclusive Housing: A Pattern Book” to be published this year by W.W. Norton & Co, an upcoming textbook on universal design, and the Principles of Universal Design, an authoritative discourse on designing beautiful and functional environments that accommodate people of varying ages, body types, and abilities.

As a GUDC Board Member, Steinfeld has played a critical role in the development of GUDC’s Universal Design Consensus Standards for Commercial Buildings (“UDS-CB”), which are voluntary guidance standards for the built environment that can be adopted to incorporate universal design principles into new and existing commercial buildings. The UDS-CB are scheduled for completion later this year.

The Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence honors UB faculty members with exemplary records of teaching, mentorship, research and public service. Following the award ceremony, held on March 25th, 2010 at 146 Diefendorf Hall on UB’s South Campus, Steinfeld will personally present his work and then join the public for an open reception at the IDeA Center, 378 Hayes Hall. Both events are free and open to the public.

GUDC, a New York not-for-profit corporation, was established to promote the understanding and use of universal design (“UD”) in the design and development of buildings, products and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation, retrofitting or specialized design. GUDC, under the continued leadership of Dr. Steinfeld, is leading a voluntary consensus standards development process to provide an objective system of measurement to evaluate the level of adoption of UD standards in the built environment. Through public education, training and technical assistance activities, GUDC will increase awareness, understanding and application of UD principles.

To learn more about GUDC, visit the website at www.globaluniversaldesign.org.