



**Kari Frontera**  
CIDQ President  
NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 017116

## President's Message

My main mission as CIDQ President has been to ensure that the NCIDQ's Exams are the best that they can be, and that resources and tools are available to carry on the work of producing top-notch examinations. Now, in my final quarter as CIDQ president, I am confident that our goals for 2017 are being achieved.

According to a recent survey by DesignIntelligence Quarterly of over 900 interior design students, 81 percent of interior design students intend to take the NCIDQ Exam. That's exciting to see, but we won't rest until that figure reaches 100 percent. Whether for the preferable scenario of legal recognition or as a measure of professional achievement and marketplace differentiation in unregulated jurisdictions, becoming NCIDQ certified adds value for all interior designers.

As I write this, the brand new computerized Practicum Exam is being rolled out in its first administration. Of our approximately 3,000 candidates for this exam administration, more than 800 of them (27%) are sitting for the new computerized practicum this month. It's gratifying to see candidate interest and support for this new testing format in which we have invested so much organizational time and effort. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about the Practicum Exam 'PRAC 2.0', the exam transition process, or how the new platform works, to visit [cidq.org/prac-2-0](http://cidq.org/prac-2-0) and take advantage of the tools and videos found on the webpage.

As my term as CIDQ President comes to a close, I want to thank our member boards for your involvement with CIDQ and for your dedication to the interior design community. If there is anything that CIDQ can do to help you or issues that you wish to discuss, please reach out to any CIDQ Board member or the CIDQ Executive Director, Thom Banks.



NCIDQ EXAMS





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## President's Message Continued

I would also like to thank the amazing CIDQ staff who have continued to raise the level of service to all of our stakeholders. Thom Banks, Maureen Lederer, Lori Cummings, Ray Resendez, Kimberly Woods, and our newest member, Bill McVay, are the day-to-day force behind advancing the CIDQ mission.

And, lastly, I would like to thank our volunteers, from our board to our exam committees and ambassadors, who work so hard to keep our standards high and our mission on track. It takes a large number of dedicated volunteers to achieve our goals. I strongly encourage NCIDQ certified interior designers to take the initiative and play an active role with CIDQ. You will be so glad you did! You can find opportunities at [cidq.org/volunteer](https://cidq.org/volunteer).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari".

**Kari Frontera**



## CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 10 - 11

The CIDQ Annual Conference will be held November 10 - 11 in Alexandria, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The Annual Conference is a great opportunity for regulatory board staff, their delegates, and representatives from CIDQ's allied professional organizations to network, share stories, and learn from each other.

The CIDQ Annual Conference is also an event where attendees can add to their annual CEU requirements. You won't want to miss our CIDQ President's Welcome Reception to be held in CIDQ's office headquarters on Thursday, November 9th.

## The Computerized PRACTICUM EXAM DEPLOYED

October 2017 marks the first administration of the new computerized Practicum Exam. Designed to test certification candidates' knowledge with equal rigor as the paper and pencil version of the exam, the computerization offers a more efficient way to assess the same overall competencies as before. Taking half the time as the original exam, candidates are given 4 ½ hours to complete the 120 question exam.

The computerized Practicum consists of three separate case studies, covering large commercial, small commercial, and residential. All questions are attached to one of the case studies. While the testing platform and layout have changed, the knowledge and information candidates need to synthesize remains largely unchanged.

For candidates who want to be best prepared for the exam, CIDQ offers several tools on its website, to provide important information to assist in their preparation.

### THESE TOOLS INCLUDE:

#### **PRAC 2.0 Exam Blueprint**

The PRAC 2.0 Exam Blueprint outlines the content and types of interior design knowledge appearing on the exam. The blueprint applies to all three case studies included in the exam, and the question distribution is broken down by knowledge areas and their relative content weighting.

#### **NCIDQ Exam Building Codes**

CIDQ uses a specific, independent set of building code requirements solely for taking the Practicum Exam. These codes are referenced in the exam and questions will be scored for compliance with these specific code requirements.

## The Computerized PRACTICUM EXAM DEPLOYED Continued

### **PRAC 2.0 Practice Quiz**

Perhaps the best way to become familiar with the PRAC 2.0 format and functionality is to take the 13 question practice quiz that uses the same test platform and methodology as the full-scale PRAC 2.0 Exam. Users will receive immediate feedback at the end of the practice quiz and gain a better understanding of the user-friendly testing format.

Also available on CIDQ's website and [YouTube](#) channel are several videos to provide insight on the new Practicum exam:

### **NCIDQ Examination: PRAC 2.0 DEMO**

A video demonstrating the new test platform used in the computerized Practicum Exam, including how to use the drag & drop, fill in the blank, and hotspot functionality.

### **NCIDQ Examination: PRAC 2.0 PLATFORM**

NCIDQ Exam Manager, Lori Cummings, gives a descriptive overview of the platform and tools used in the computerized Practicum Exam section PRAC 2.0.

### **NCIDQ Examination: PRAC 2.0 CREATION**

2017 CIDQ President Kari Frontera and CIDQ Executive Director Thom Banks provide an overview of the transition of the NCIDQ Practicum to a computerized format from its previous pencil and paper exam format.

### **NCIDQ Examination: PRAC 2.0 PREPARATION**

CIDQ PRAC 2.0 Development Committee Volunteer Samantha Messerly explores ways for candidates to best prepare to take the computerized Practicum Exam.



# FALL 2017

**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## Tell Your Story!

I recently returned from the IIDA Advocacy Symposium in Chicago. It was very well done, mixing both practical skill building as well as inspiring advocacy stories from some dynamic speakers. However, what it mostly underscored for me was the need for all of us to learn how to better tell our professional story so that we can explain the nature and value of what we do to those in positions to dictate the future of the profession.

Much of our upcoming Annual Conference will focus on the current legislative climate. Many jurisdictions are anticipating deregulatory challenges both from the usual opposition forces as well as a larger movement against occupational licensing. We have some amazing speakers with great knowledge and a variety of perspectives to share, and I am excited to hear their presentations. But even with the current challenges to the profession, let's not forget, interior designers have a great story to tell! No profession I know of has the ability to so profoundly affect and shape the daily experience of so many people. You create the spaces in which we all live, work, and play. That's an exceptional opportunity and an awesome responsibility to tell your story every day with every project.



**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## Tell Your Story! Continued

Speaking of great stories, CIDQ also has an exciting one to tell. On October 1st, we launched the new computerized Practicum Exam replacing the old paper and pencil exam. This change aligns CIDQ with best practice in exam administration, increasing accessibility for candidates as it will now be offered for the full months of April and October, and ultimately accelerating CIDQ's ability to deliver score reports to candidates all while maintaining the same level of rigor in assessing competency. It represents the culmination of a three year transition effort, and CIDQ is looking forward to this first administration and the growth and refinement of the Practicum going forward.

We've also recently launched a new feature on our website which allows users to access historical candidate pass rates (2014 forward) for graduates of CIDA programs. This is something that educators have been requesting for some time, and we are excited to be able to bring this new resource to them as well as prospective students, parents and the public.

Lastly, we are grateful to the larger community of NCIDQ Certificate Holders that relay the value and importance of the exam to young designers. As the 2017 exam registration window has closed, candidates have purchased 6,600+ exams this year, a 17 percent increase over 2016! Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for the profession and the NCIDQ Exam.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "THOM". The letters are stylized and connected.

**Thom Banks**



## 2017 CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### WHO:

CIDQ ASSEMBLY  
OF DELEGATE  
MEMBERS AND  
JURISDICTIONAL  
BOARD STAFF

### WHERE:

OLD TOWN  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

### WHEN:

NOV. 10 - 11, 2017

### REGISTER:

[www.cidq.org/cidq-annual-conference](http://www.cidq.org/cidq-annual-conference)

The CIDQ Annual Conference will be held November 10-11, 2017 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The weekend will start with a welcome reception in the evening on November 9 at CIDQ's office in Alexandria.

All state and provincial regulatory board staff, their delegates, and representatives from interior design professional organizations are invited to come together to discuss CIDQ and related interior design issues.

**Early bird registration ends October 20. [Register Today!](#)**

#### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SPEAKERS

##### **TODD HEISER**

Gensler Firmwide Consumer Goods Practice Area Leader

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

##### **LUZ ESCAMILLA**

Utah State Senator & Assistant Minority Whip

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

#### RECENTLY ADDED

##### **DALE J. ATKINSON, ESQ.**

Attorney, Atkinson & Atkinson, LLC

Executive Director and General Counsel of FARB

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

##### **KATHERINE SETSER**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture & Interior Design

Miami University

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10



## 2017 LOUIS S. TREGRE AWARD RECIPIENT **LISA WHITED, NCIDQ**

### **Lisa Whited, NCIDQ**

Founder + Chief  
Transformation Officer  
at Workplace Transfor-  
mation Facilitation

*Lisa has worked  
for over 30 years  
designing corporate  
interiors that  
demonstrate the  
connection between  
the built environment,  
human behavior  
and organizational  
performance.*

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*In recognition of outstanding volunteer service, CIDQ is pleased to present the 2017 Louis S. Tregre Award to Lisa Whited, NCIDQ.*

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Lisa earned this award due to her long and distinguished volunteer service with CIDQ, as well as her proven dedication to helping interior design and architecture professionals work seamlessly together to develop a better understanding and respect between the design professions. Lisa is also a strong advocate for interior design to be a licensed profession and the benefits of being credentialed. Having a degree in Interior Design and an M.S. in Organization & Management, Lisa is well positioned to find common ground between the professions, and in 2004 as the Program Director at Boston Architectural College (BAC), she developed a hybrid course with interior design and architecture students in a class taught by professors from both departments, which is still taught today.

Lisa has been deeply involved with CIDQ since 1993 when she was a master juror for exams as well as a member of the Council of Delegates, representing the State of Maine. Since then, she has served on the CIDQ Board of Directors and in 2000, served as the Board President. In addition to other roles with CIDQ, she currently serves as a volunteer Ambassador to educate individuals about the importance of the NCIDQ Exam and NCIDQ Certification.

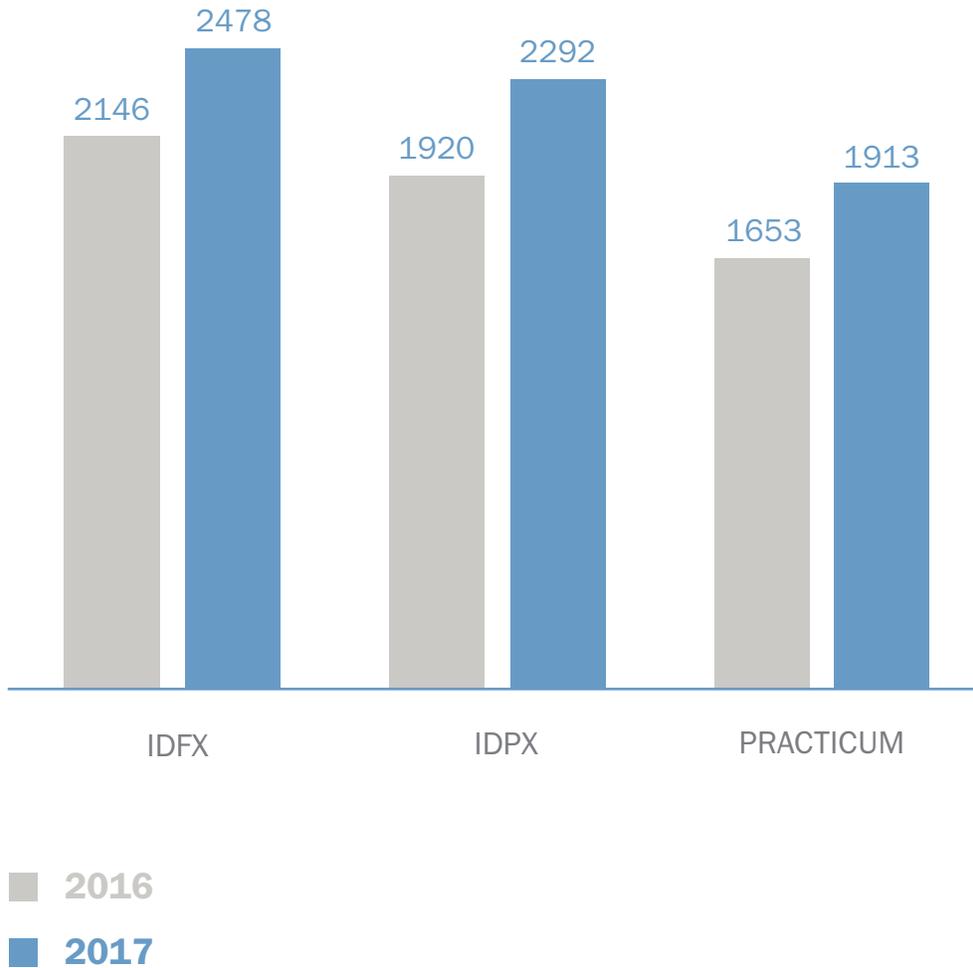
## 2017 LOUIS S. TREGRE AWARD RECIPIENT Continued

### **Lisa Whited, NCIDQ**

Victoria Horobin, CIDQ Past President, recognized Lisa's volunteer efforts, both for CIDQ as well as advocacy work for the interior design profession and nominated Lisa for this award. "Lisa never steps down from a challenge or a worthy cause and is extremely giving of her personal time and energy. She is careful, thoughtful, and deliberate in her approach to volunteerism and problem solving. She is also a great mentor to young designers and leads them into and through the profession with wisdom, kindness, and always a great sense of humor."

Lisa was humbled to receive this year's award. "I am honored to receive this award from the Council and grateful for the opportunities to collaborate and serve with such passionate and knowledgeable volunteers. I could not have imagined the impact this organization would have on the trajectory of my life: from learning leadership skills to understanding the intricacies of psychometrics, from being exposed to the legislative process to educating people about the profession's impact on the health, safety and welfare of the public – none of this would have happened if I had not become a volunteer for CIDQ."

### Exam Registration Comparison



Exam registrations are up a combined

17%

from 2016 to 2017.

The IDFX increased 15%, the IDPX 19%, and the Practicum 16%.

# NCIDQ EXAM

## (CIDA PROGRAM) Pass Rates Are Now Available

CIDQ has added a new searchable database to its website. NCIDQ Exam Results for all CIDA Accredited Programs are available at [www.cidq.org/pass-rates-cida](http://www.cidq.org/pass-rates-cida). Searches are available by institution name, as well as by country and state/province. Results reflect the number of exams administered, passed, failed, and the pass rate by year for 2014, 2015, and 2016. 2017 results will be added following the release of scores for the October 2017 administration.

### NCIDQ Pass Rates (CIDA Programs)

*This resource is best utilized and viewed on a larger screen.*

The NCIDQ Examination is founded on education and enhanced by experience. CIDQ recognizes that a variety of factors influence pass rates. School program pass rate information is shared as a resource and not intended to be used as an evaluative tool.

2016 comparative overall exam pass rates:

Year	IDFX Passing Rate	IDPX Passing Rate	Practicum Passing Rate
2016	71%	59%	62%

Institution Name 
 Country 
 State/Province

**SUBMIT**

DEGREE TYPE	INST. NAME	EXAM YEAR	IDFX				IDPX				PRACTICUM				
			ADMINISTERED	PASS	FAIL	PASSING RATE	ADMINISTERED	PASS	FAIL	PASSING RATE	ADMINISTERED	PASS	FAIL	PASSING RATE	
<b>Bachelors</b>															
	Ablene Christian University														
		2014	7	2	5	29%	6	3	3	50%	3	3	0	100%	
		2015	5	3	2	60%	4	2	2	50%	1	1	0	100%	
		2016	3	3	0	100%	2	1	1	50%	3	1	2	33%	
	Academy of Art University														
		2014	5	3	2	60%	3	1	2	33%	1	1	0	100%	
		2015	1	0	1	0%	3	2	1	67%	3	1	2	33%	
		2016	3	2	1	67%	3	1	2	33%	2	1	1	50%	



**Amanda Gale,**  
Ph.D., NCIDQ WELL AP,  
ASID, IIDA

Former Practicum Grader  
NCIDQ Ambassador

## NCIDQ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Why did you decide to become an interior designer?

Looking back it should have been obvious as I loved to make forts and would re-arrange the furniture in the house much to my parent's amazement, concern, and annoyance often times finding a way to move large pieces of furniture up and down stairs by myself when I was home alone. As a freshman at Michigan State University, I took an intro to interior design course and was hooked. I hadn't realized how much I liked creating spaces nor had I realized the impact spaces had on how people functioned. I've been active in the profession ever since.

### What is your favorite part of being an interior designer?

That's a tie between problem solving and working in a field that encourages you to keep learning, both of which revolve around working with clients and now working with students. In both cases, it means that I get to help people, either to create a space that works best for them or to encourage someone to be their best self. All the stakeholders in this field (clients, educators, students, emerging professionals, designers, etc.) keep me on my toes, provide fresh perspectives, and are teaching me as much as I am teaching them.

### What interior design field do you work in?

I work primarily in education, teaching lighting design, research methods, sustainability courses including a course where students take the LEED Green Associate Exam, and upper level studios using evidence-based design in office environments, residential settings, and school environments. Each of the studios that I teach incorporates sustainability and well-being.

### Why did you decide to pursue NCIDQ Certification and how has achieving it benefited you either personally or professionally?

The first firm I worked for was a female-owned firm that strived to support its young designers through mentorship. I had great mentors, all of which were NCIDQ certified. They talked about how important the credential was to the profession and acquiring

**Amanda Gale, Ph.D., NCIDQ WELL AP, ASID, IIDA`**

projects. As I was transitioning into academia I looked up several position postings – all of them had NCIDQ preferred listed as a qualification. Once I went back to school to obtain my graduate degrees, I made a point to take the NCIDQ Exam.

Having the NCIDQ Certification has helped me in multiple ways. It opened doors for me in academia, as it is one of the many standards for accreditation within the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). It also qualified me for many volunteer service opportunities within the profession, such as NCIDQ Practicum grading and NCIDQ ambassador. The experience of being an NCIDQ Exam grader has been most rewarding. Through this experience, I have become a more effective educator and gained more confidence in my own abilities. I have developed strategies to integrate somewhat difficult CIDA standards into the curriculum using previous NCIDQ exams as a means to test knowledge during finals but also at the beginning of the semester to introduce topics as applied exercises to walk students through the importance of health, safety, and welfare.

#### Why do you volunteer with CIDQ?

I believe giving back is important, but also because it is rewarding. Regardless of the CIDQ activity I am involved with, I have found personal growth through interaction with the wonderful and diverse representatives of the industry. I cannot think of a better way to represent the practice and instruction of interior design or to help move the industry forward than to volunteer with CIDQ.

#### What advice would you give to someone thinking about taking the NCIDQ Exam?

When I took the exam, I wanted to get it over with so I was determined to take it all at one time. For individuals with the same mindset, take advantage of the flexibility in dates that are offered for the exam by scheduling at the beginning, middle, and end of the month.

I highly recommend taking the online practice quizzes to get yourself comfortable with the formatting. When you take the tests, simulate the testing center environment as much as possible (no phone, no background noise, no multitasking, etc.). Knowing what to expect will alleviate some nerves and help you focus.

Finally, and most importantly, BREATHE! I cannot tell you how many times I've seen students holding their breath or grimacing at the screen while taking tests. Your brain needs oxygen. Make a conscience effort to take deep breaths after every other question. Hopefully, this will also help you relax.



## SPRING 2018 APPLICATION REVIEW

CIDQ will begin reviewing applications for the Spring 2018 NCIDQ Examination on November 15 with all completed applications due by January 15, 2018. Applicants who want to sit for the NCIDQ Examination in April must complete the following steps:

### 1. Create a profile with [MyNCIDQ](#)

### 2. Upload all necessary documents

All applications must include a sealed official school transcript mailed to CIDQ at 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314. Transcripts must be received by CIDQ by January 15, 2018 for an application to be considered completed and to be processed.

**Work experience is required for applicants applying for the IDPX (Professional Exam).** Only the [CIDQ Work Experience Form\(s\)](#) will be accepted. The **official form** must be completed and signed by a supervisor or sponsor and submitted by January 15, 2018 for an application to be processed. IDFX ONLY applicants are not required to submit work experience forms.

### 3. Pay the application fee prior to the January 15, 2018 deadline

Applications are not “complete” until paid.

All Three Exam Sections - \$225

IDFX ONLY - \$95

IDPX & Practicum - \$145 (for previously IDFX ONLY approved applicants)



## SPRING 2018 EXAM CALENDAR

<b>APPLY WITH CIDQ:</b>	
Application Review Begins	November 15, 2017
Application Review Ends	January 15, 2018
<b>REGISTER:</b>	
Registering & Scheduling Begins	January 3, 2018
Registering & Scheduling Ends*	March 31, 2018
<b>SIT FOR EXAM at PROMETRIC Test Center Site:</b>	
Examinations Administered	April 1-30, 2018

\* CIDQ strongly recommends scheduling early to ensure seat availability and choice of dates. **Registered (purchased) exams must be taken in the current (Spring-APRIL) administration and cannot be rolled over to a different administration.** CIDQ cannot guarantee available seat and time for any candidate who waits to the final days to begin the process to schedule their exam.



**emergence** collection

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