



Kari Frontera
CIDQ President
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 017116

President's Message

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer, and are taking time to refresh and recharge your batteries! I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to do just that when I traveled to Panama this summer to see the South American approach to design. The combination of traditional objects with modern architecture, colorful design and artwork, vintage entryways, and sunny beaches made the venture well worthwhile and one that I would highly recommend.

Meanwhile, back at CIDQ, we have been making significant strides in moving the NCIDQ Practicum Exam forward, to its new computerized platform. Thanks to the tireless work of our amazing volunteers, the exam is ready to launch. In fact, registration is already open, so approved candidates can reserve their seat now to take the new PRAC 2.0 this October.

I hope you will take the time to check out the resources available on [CIDQ's website](https://www.cidq.org/prac-2-0) at <https://www.cidq.org/prac-2-0> and see firsthand how the PRAC 2.0 will be delivered. We're pretty excited and know a lot of NCIDQ candidates who will be too!

And be sure to read the article "The Benefits of NCIDQ Certification to Employers" on page 2, to see the many positive aspects to employers supporting their staff earning NCIDQ Certification.

A handwritten signature of Kari Frontera in black ink.

Kari Frontera



Images by Kari Frontera



The Benefits of NCIDQ Certification to Employers

Interior design professionals pursue NCIDQ Certification for many reasons:

- Demonstrating the full scope of their practice capabilities
- Personal pride in the profession
- Gaining a professional advantage through obtainment of a respected credential
- Meeting state or provincial licensure requirements

All of which are widely accepted as beneficial to a certificate holder.

But what are the benefits to employers? And why should firms not only encourage, but expect and support their interior design staff to be NCIDQ Certified?

Risk Management

Certified employees understand the importance of adhering to specific professional standards. You can more confidently rely on your team's ability to consistently and competently execute project work boosting your company's reputation when pursuing contracts and new customers.

Professional interior designers who possess the NCIDQ Certification have distinguished themselves by demonstrating a specific set of core competencies, supported by verified work experience and a college degree. They have proven their expertise in understanding and applying current codes established to protect public health, safety, and welfare. They are passionate about their profession and dedicated to its recognition and integrity.

That peace of mind is worth investing in.

Promotional Value

Encouraging your employees to earn a professional certification (and communicating that fact to clients) demonstrates that your company holds its staff to the highest professional standards. Customers will be better served and feel more secure knowing they're in certified hands.

The strenuous requirements of the NCIDQ Certification will give your clients added confidence in the caliber of work your business provides. Highlight your company's utilization of professional NCIDQ Certified interior designers.

Improved Productivity

Studies by a variety of organizations, including Microsoft and HR Certification, have shown that employees with a professional certification are more productive. Retaining NCIDQ Certified interior designers, who have demonstrated mastery of a broad base of competencies, can positively impact the quality of work produced. Having skilled and motivated people is a key organizational objective in any business. And being confident in a professional certification such as NCIDQ, to both identify and prove the existence of skills and motivation, is a tremendous value.

Happier Employees

Supporting your team members in obtaining an NCIDQ Certificate shows them you share in their desire to be the best they can be. People want to work for organizations that are invested in their professional development and committed to helping them take the next steps in their career.

Employees appreciate being noticed and valued by their company, and by their supervisors. This sense of value can go a long way in prompting loyalty and a desire to stay, which reduces the time and costly expenses related to staff turnover.

Consequently, organizations are willing to pay more for a certified professional than an uncertified comparable specialist. This value comes from increased credibility, standardization with industry frameworks, and having skilled and motivated people.

The Benefits of NCIDQ Certification to Employees Continued

In today's marketplace, when selecting the right job candidate or determining the best employee to lead a project, an NCIDQ Certificate is a critical differentiator.

Why NCIDQ?

CIDQ's 43 year history as the awarding body, its commitment to producing fair, reliable and valid experienced based exams, and continuing education requirements are the key factors that make NCIDQ a highly valued credential. The NCIDQ Examination covers seven areas that capture the core competencies of interior design: building systems, codes, construction standards, contract administration, design application, professional practice, and project coordination.

NCIDQ Certified interior designers must complete a minimum of six years of specialized education and work experience and pass the three-part NCIDQ Exam, which is based on CIDQ's independent, comprehensive analysis of the profession and the daily practice of interior design in a range of settings. NCIDQ Certification is required for legal recognition in more than half of the states across the U.S. and all of the Canadian provinces.

How can your company encourage and support employee's participation?

- *Make holding an NCIDQ Certificate a requirement within the first five years of employment*
- *Recognize the accomplishment through company-wide communications (staff meetings, newsletters, social media)*
- *Acknowledge the achievement through bonuses, promotions, pay raises*
- *Reimburse expenses associated with the certification: application fees, exam fees, annual certificate renewal*



Summer's here and....

Thom Banks
Executive Director

The NCIDQ exam is hot!

The spring exam administration is complete and CIDQ is pleased to welcome 587 new certificate holders. That's a 27 percent increase over the number of new certificate holders from spring 2016! You can find a full listing of their names [here](#). Of course, you can always find the complete and searchable list of all Active NCIDQ's certificate holders on our website [here](#).

In response to your requests, we are currently working to add a searchable database of exam performance statistics for all CIDA schools. We know that this a feature that educators, students and parents are anxious to access and we're excited to add this capability to our website over the next few months.

Registration for the fall exam administration is underway and CIDQ is looking forward to the launch of the new computerized Practicum section (Prac 2.0). Many people have been working very hard to make this transition possible. We're almost there. Fall registration numbers are strong with nearly a third of exam registrations being for the new Practicum section.

For the first time ever, CIDQ will be offering the NCIDQ exam in the Middle East this fall. We have had a number of inquiries and so are making it available at testing centers throughout the region on a trial basis. All three sections of the exam will be available to exam candidates there throughout the month of October.



Thom Banks
Executive Director

The NCIDQ exam is hot! Continued

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Association of Registered Interior Designers of New Brunswick (ARIDNB) on their legislative triumph! In May, after celebrating 30 years of their title act, they succeeded in passing a bill that defines the practice of interior design in New Brunswick. That doesn't happen without a lot of hard work from many people over a number of years. Congratulations on your accomplishment!

Best,

Thom



STUDENTS, EMERGING PROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATORS

New resources have been added to the website, specifically for interior design students, new graduates, and educators, including details on getting a jump start on earning an NCIDQ Certificate through IDFX ONLY.

Check it out!

CIDQ.ORG/STUDENTS-EDUCATORS

“Take your passion seriously”

Charles Eames



Ellen Cusick
NCIDQ ASID IIDA

Prac 2.0 Item Writer
Practicum Grader

NCIDQ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When did you become certified and why did you do it?

I took the NCIDQ in the fall of 2005. I was working for a GC putting together permit documents for projects all over the west coast. We contracted with an architect to stamp our drawings and I thought it would make me more valuable to the company if I were able to be registered in those states that had ID legislation in place.

What field do you work in?

I am an independent designer working in residential and small commercial interiors (retail & restaurants, primarily). I am also an educator in the Portland, metro area.

What is one of the coolest projects you have worked on and how did being a certified designer contribute?

Working with John Gorham, a local restaurateur, on a gastronomic society (similar to those found in San Sebastian, Spain) was one of my favorite projects. It was very much a collaborative process with a team of builders, craftspeople and food professionals. We changed an old warehouse into a dynamic space for the celebration of all things food. Working with John led to the opportunity to work as part of a design-build team with other renowned restaurateurs in Portland.

Anything else that you would want a non-certified designer to know about the NCIDQ Exam?

“Arising tide lifts all boats.” The more designers that have NCIDQ credentials the more valuable the profession becomes.

WHO:

CIDQ ASSEMBLY
OF DELEGATE
MEMEBERS AND
JURISDICTIONAL
BOARD STAFF

WHERE:

OLD TOWN
ALEXANDRIA, VA

WHEN:

NOV. 10 - 11, 2017

REGISTER:

OPENS AUGUST 1st
<https://www.cid-q.org/cidq-annual-conference>

RESERVE A ROOM:

HILTON HOTEL at
KING STREET STATION

CIDQ 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Speakers

**TODD HEISER**

Gensler Firmwide Consumer Goods Practice Area Leader
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10

Contract Magazine's 2016 Designer of the Year Interior Design Magazine's 2015 HiP Leader for Workplace

His design work includes themed-entertainment, hospitality and commercial interior environments. Heiser's clients include Kohler, Google, Nickelodeon, Le Meridien Hotels, Procter & Gamble, Capital One Digital Labs, and Motorola Mobility. Heiser utilizes his architectural background and interior design experience to promote integration of spatial design and planning, materials and detailing. As a Firmwide and Regional Consumer Goods Practice Leader in Gensler's Washington, D.C., office, Heiser is engaged in the design of next-generation creative workplaces and co-working environments. He holds a Master of Architecture, Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Interior Design degrees and received the Henry Adams Medal from the AIA.

Speakers Continued



LUZ ESCAMILLA

UTAH STATE SENATOR & ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

Sponsor of Utah SB 0117 which creates a state certification for the practice of commercial interior design

Senator Escamilla was first elected to the Utah State Senate in 2008, and was re-elected in 2012. In 2016, Senator Escamilla served on the Executive Appropriations Committee, the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as on standing committees including Senate Ethics Committee, Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee, Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee.

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NCIDQ EXAMINATIONS

Fall 2017 Locations

All three sections of the NCIDQ Examination – the Interior Design Fundamentals Exam (IDFX), the Interior Design Professional Exam (IDPX), and the Practicum Exam (PRAC 2.0) -- are held at a Prometric Test Centers throughout the United States and Canada.

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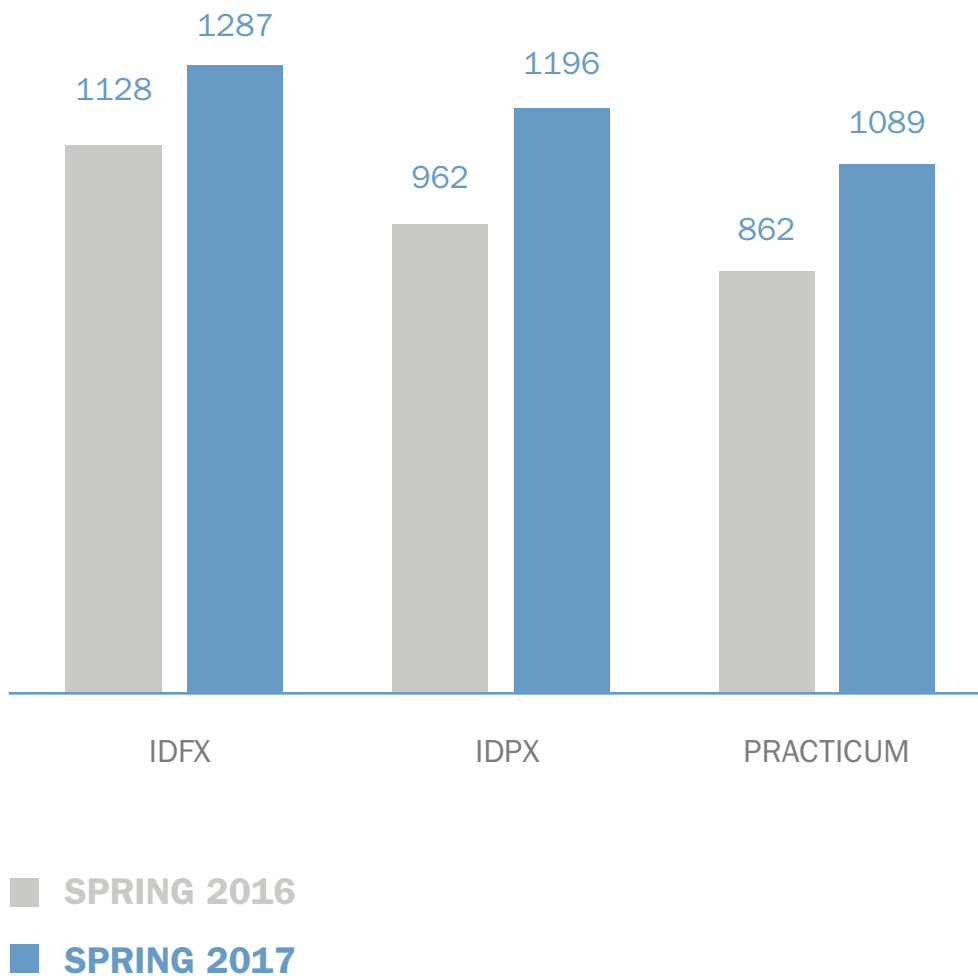
The Fall 2017 NCIDQ Exam Administration will also include a special administration at Prometric Test Centers located in the Middle East.

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The Value of NCIDQ Certification

NCIDQ Certification is the industry's recognized indicator of proficiency in interior design principles and a designer's commitment to the profession. Professional interior designers who possess the NCIDQ Certification have distinguished themselves by demonstrating a specific set of core competencies, supported by verified work experience and a college degree. They have proven their expertise in understanding and applying current codes established to protect public health, safety and welfare. They are passionate about their profession and dedicated to its recognition and integrity. They are members of a select but growing community—more than 31,000 strong—that offers the opportunity to network with other highly qualified industry experts.

Spring Registration Comparison

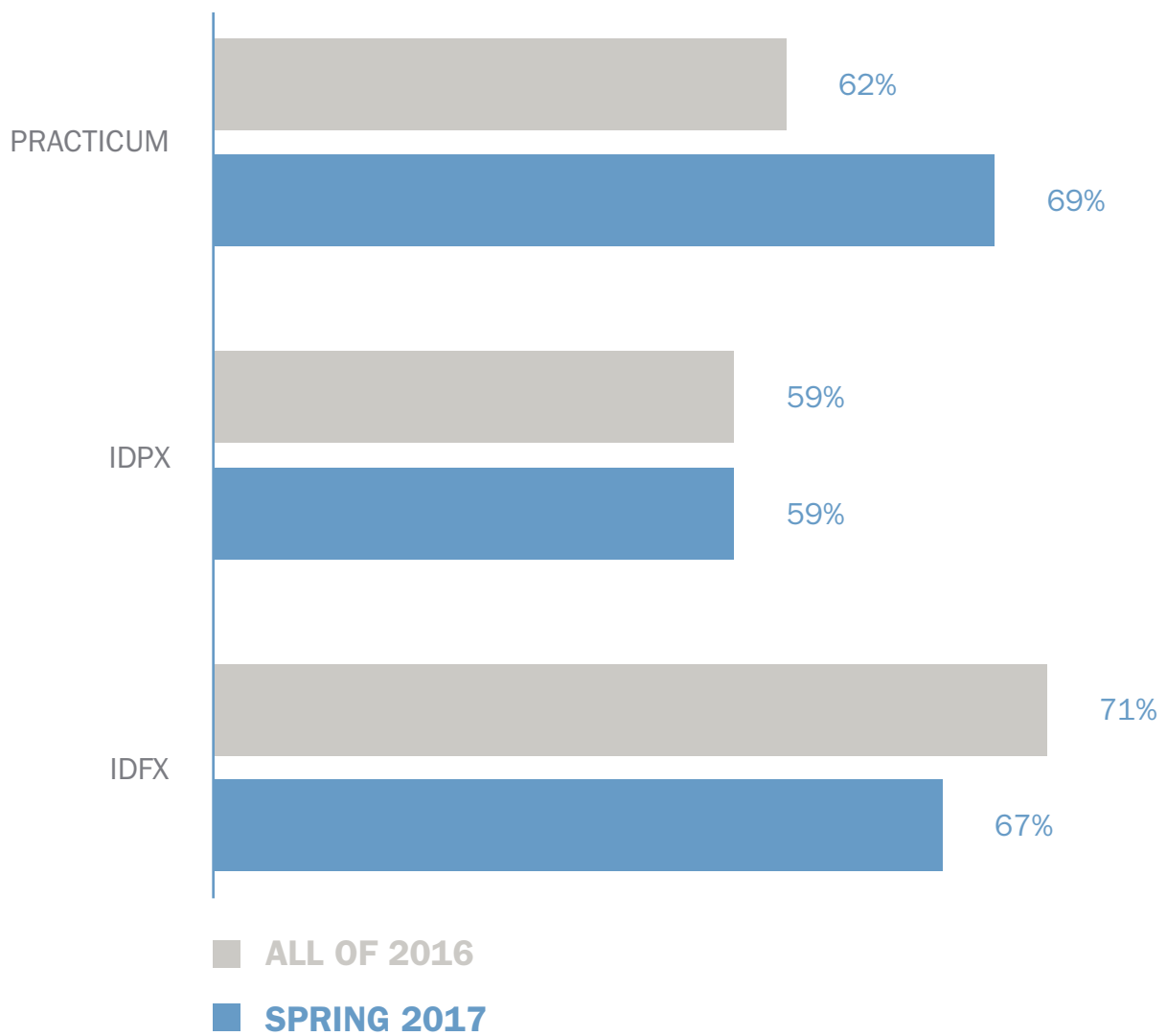


27% INCREASE in New Certificates Issued

Spring 2016: **461**

Spring 2017: **587**

Passing Rate Comparison



PRAC 2.0 BEGINS

In addition to implementing a user-friendly testing platform, PRAC 2.0 consists of three case studies: large commercial, small commercial, and residential. Every question on PRAC 2.0 will be attached to a case study which will include various resources surrounding the design scenario. Working through each case study will require an exam candidate to synthesize information, analyze various design documents, and make specific judgements that demonstrate understanding of the tasks and knowledge areas within the exam blueprint which includes the competencies listed under each content area.

BUILDING CODES

CIDQ has created and uses a specific, independent set of building codes for the purpose of taking the PRAC 2.0 Exam, NCIDQ Examination Building Codes that are provided during the examination as an accessible tab screen. Exam exercises are graded for compliance with these specific code requirements. Links to the code can be found on CIDQ's website at www.cidq.org/prac-2-0.

DEMONSTRATION VIDEO

For a tutorial “how to use” overview of the testing platform the new computerized version of PRAC 2.0, a demonstration video is available. Links to the demo video can also be found on CIDQ's website at www.cidq.org/prac-2-0.

PRACTICE QUIZ

To help prepare and get a hands-on experience of the new computerized version of the Practicum Exam, a PRAC 2.0 Practice Quiz is available. For \$12, users who purchase the practice quiz will receive 13 sample questions to answer using the same test response platform the actual PRAC 2.0 uses. Experience how to use the drag and drop, hot spot, and fill-in-the-blank technology before taking the full exam. The PRAC 2.0 Quiz is also available for purchase at www.cidq.org/prac-2-0.