

# NCIDQ Letter

For NCIDQ Active Certificate Holders

## Important News for Hurricane Victims

NCIDQ extends its deepest sympathies to all those who have been affected by the devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Active Certificate holders (those who participate in NCIDQ's record maintenance program) who live or work in ZIP codes designated as disaster areas will not be charged an annual record maintenance fee. If your annual maintenance fee is due in October 2005 or April 2006, NCIDQ will waive it and maintain your record in an active status until the next renewal period. If you already received this notice and are in an affected ZIP code, simply complete the form with any updated information and return it to NCIDQ.

In addition, Certificate holders who live or work in one of the affected ZIP code regions and who may have lost their Certificate as a result of the hurricane, may request a new Certificate and NCIDQ will waive the replacement fee. To request a new Certificate, call the NCIDQ office at (202) 721-0220.

A list of affected ZIP codes is on our Web site at [www.ncidq.org](http://www.ncidq.org). If you have any questions about NCIDQ's assistance, please call our office at (202) 721-0220.

## Message From the President

Janice Roberts Young



## Communicating Our Mission Through the Year

In my first President's Message earlier this year, I emphasized my desire to improve communications with our various audiences. I'm pleased to tell you that the NCIDQ Board, staff and a host of volunteers have been working all year on precisely that.

If you were at NeoCon in Chicago, you may have seen evidence of our outreach. For the first time, thanks to the generous support of the Merchandise Mart Properties and Paoli Furniture, NCIDQ had a booth on the eighth floor. We celebrated new Certificate holders and handed out badge ribbons to our active Certificate holders so they could promote their credential. You can read more about our outreach this year on page 3 in the article, "Promoting the Benefits of the NCIDQ Credential."

We have participated in events at numerous schools, colleges and universities in North America. All these events have enabled us to let a wider audience know that NCIDQ is more than the examination. In fact, we have discussed our member boards and our mission to protect the public, IDEP and a career path for students, the examination eligibility requirements, our CE tracking services and our record maintenance and monograph programs. It has been nothing short of thrilling and amazing at

the interest demonstrated in NCIDQ and our profession everywhere we've been.

For me, the most energizing task has been explaining the evolution of the NCIDQ Examination over the past six years. Based upon the Practice Analysis we conduct every five years, our exam tests only those aspects of interior design that impact the health, safety and welfare of the public. Many believe



that the exam we give today is the one we gave 15 years ago, when in fact, it is quite different!

Delegates to the 2005 Annual Meeting will be working hard supporting our mission. One of the important topics under consideration will be how to bring a fully developed profession, such as ours, in line with other professions. We know there is a structured path that includes education, experience and examination, but it seems to us that there is a fourth area, certification, that needs to be developed as our profession continues to evolve.

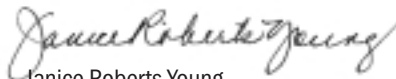
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By certification, I am referring to a true professional milestone—a professional certification that includes significant ethics requirements. Our Certification Committee has continued researching the structure and details of the program this year. They will present their recommendations, and we will discuss this issue in more depth with our delegates, at the Annual Council of Delegates Meeting in November, listening to their concerns and comments. We will then keep you, our Certificate holders, apprised of the direction we see this program heading. Please see the very informative article on pages 4-5 of this issue of the *QLetter* for a more complete discussion of professional certification.

Again, I extend my commitment to you to communicate how NCIDQ is working on behalf of our Certificate holders and the public we protect. One of the many benefits you receive as an active Certificate holder is this newsletter, so you can be assured of always having the most current and complete information. Thank you for continuing to support NCIDQ by keeping your Certificate active through participating in our record maintenance program.

We appreciate your commitment to professional excellence through your NCIDQ credential and the use of that credential in all your professional communications.



Janice Roberts Young  
NCIDQ President

## NCIDQ Appoints New Board Member

Carol Jones, an interior designer based in Vancouver, BC, was appointed to the NCIDQ Board of Directors earlier this year. She was appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy created when Director David Hanson resigned to accept an elected position as Vice President of Professional Development for the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

Jones' work has been recognized with many design awards and featured widely in Canadian publications, and she frequently writes and speaks at conferences on workplace topics. She has been involved with the NCIDQ Examination as a member of the development team, a jury team leader and a member of the advisory board for the Practice Analysis. She is currently serving on NCIDQ's Certification Committee.

For most of her career, Jones has participated on the Boards of interior design professional associations at the provincial, national and international levels. She has served as President of the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) and of IIDA. She was a founding member of the International Facility Management Association's British Columbia chapter. Jones has been inducted into the College of Fellows of three associations—the Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia, IDC and IIDA.

Hanson, principal of DH Designs in Vancouver, BC, was elected as a Director to the NCIDQ Board by the Council of Delegates. During his Directorship, Hanson was actively involved with the Council's Interior Design Experience Program (IDEP), serving as Chair in 2005 and the Council's Finance Committee. Prior to his Board service, Hanson was a member of the Council of Delegates, representing the Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia and was actively involved with the NCIDQ Examination as a member of the Validation Committee.

Jones will fill the remainder of Hanson's two-year term, which expires at the end of this year.

## 2005 Board of Directors

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## Promoting the Benefits of the NCIDQ Credential

This spring and summer, NCIDQ Board and staff have been on the road promoting the value of the NCIDQ credential to various groups. Although NCIDQ Ambassadors have spoken to groups of students and professionals, attending conferences and trade shows allows us to broaden our reach.

In May, we staffed a booth at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Expo in Las Vegas, held in conjunction with their annual conference. Our message to architects was that putting a properly credentialed professional (i.e. NCIDQ Certificate holder) on their design team allows them to focus on their specialty, while allowing interior designers to focus on theirs. This ensures that the public is protected at every turn. Local Certificate holders volunteered to assist us at this show, and we appreciate their help very much. Thank you to: Ann Fleming, Courtney Johnston, Cynthia Kestler, Dawn Larsen, Jonelle Vance, Karina Ashworth, Lee Cagley, Robert Stanley, Sonia Dang, Stacy Sterling and Tamara Holtfreter.

In mid-June, we were pleased to have our first booth at NeoCon. This allowed us time to interact with Certificate holders, students and others about NCIDQ, the examination, our monograph program and CE tracking system. One of the popular items we gave away was a ribbon to attach to name badges that identified people as active NCIDQ Certificate holders. Again, we were fortunate to have Certificate holders volunteer their time to assist us in our efforts. Thank you to: Peter Triantafyllos, Donna Vining, Pat Martin, Suzette Morjan, Mary Dluzen, Laurie Smith and Mary Murtaugh.

By late June, we were in Orlando attending the American School Counselors Association (ASCA) conference and trade show. NCIDQ, along with its allied organizations (the American Society of

Interior Designers, the International Interior Design Association, the Interior Design Educators Council and the Interior Designers of Canada), sponsored a booth called "Careers in Interior Design," and NCIDQ and IDEC sent staff to work it. Our goal was to talk to counselors at the high-school and college levels and to make them aware of the career path for interior designers that culminates in licensure/registration in some jurisdictions and the NCIDQ Certificate. We were overwhelmed at the positive response we received. Counselors told us they were extremely happy to see us there since they have more and more students asking about a career in interior design. They agreed that the Careers in Interior Design Web site will be a particularly valuable resource for them and their students.

In August, NCIDQ was part of a "certification umbrella" area at the National Conference of State Legislators conference in Seattle. We partnered with the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and other regulated professions to promote the value of regulation as a means to safeguard the public.

NCIDQ will continue to advocate on behalf of the public's health, life safety and welfare by educating those outside the profession as to the importance of working with qualified interior designers. We continue to promote the NCIDQ Examination as the single qualifying examination in the United States and Canada and the NCIDQ Certificate as the credential that is the "mark of a professional." ■



**Stacy Sterling, left, and Cynthia Kestler, right, volunteered their time to work in the NCIDQ booth at the AIA Expo earlier this year in Las Vegas.**



**Chicago interior designer Mary Murtaugh, right, explains the NCIDQ Examination during NeoCon. NCIDQ's booth on the 8th floor gave us the opportunity to meet with Certificate holders and students.**

# Understanding Certification

## NCIDQ Will Evolve As Profession Grows

“**C**ertification” is a term with many uses and many misunderstood meanings. There are two major types of certifications—those that qualify individuals and those that qualify products and/or production processes.

The various professions and trades that exist in the United States and Canada operate certification programs of many different stripes to qualify individuals. These programs have evolved over time, and as each evolves, other programs learn from the successes and mistakes. This has had the effect of creating a uniform understanding of what “certification” means in the arena of qualifying professional credentials.

The primary purpose of any certification program is to provide a uniform standard to protect the public by defining high professional standards of practice. Current certification programs exist in almost all occupations. Each has its own unique characteristics, but most have these components:

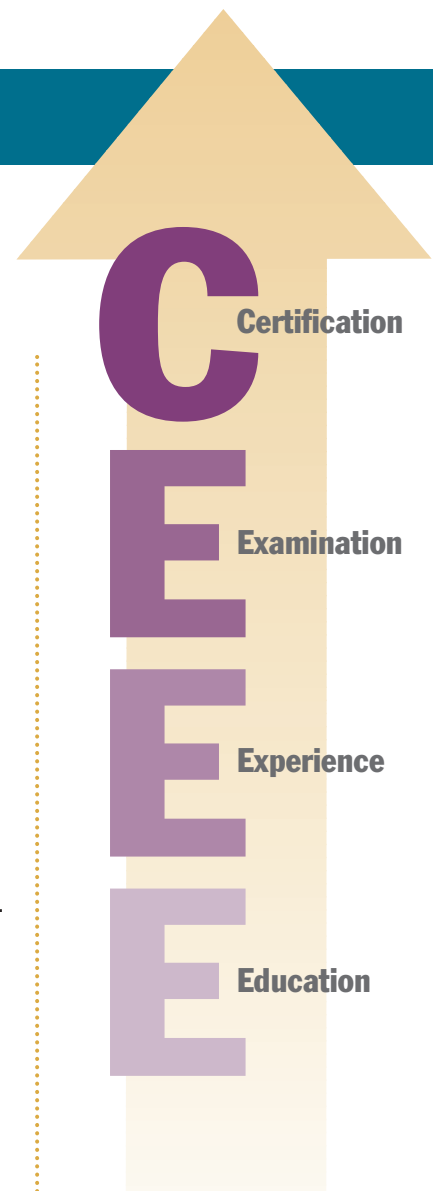
- Some type of required education in the field
- Some amount of practical experience in the field
- A test of knowledge, skills and abilities within the field
- Payment of fees to maintain active status in a certification program
- Requirements for continued learning throughout a professional's career
- Acceptance of a Code of Professional Ethics

- Adherence to program policies that deal with reasons for certificate revocation, suspension, appeals and reinstatements

### Certification vs. Licensure

**T**he individual states in the United States and the provinces in Canada regulate the professions. Each jurisdiction (state, province or territory) has the power to establish its own standards of competence for each profession it regulates. These requirements are often called “licensure,” “registration” or “certification.” Each jurisdiction establishes the parameters under which a profession is “licensed,” “registered” or “certified” and the rationale for use of a specific term. Because of this, it can sometimes be confusing to find that a professional in one state is called “licensed,” and in another is called “certified.” To further complicate matters, most private credentialing bodies use “certification,” which can be confused with a jurisdiction's terminology.

Because of the complexity of state and provincial requirements, it is possible to have little uniformity from one jurisdiction to another. This can result in a level of complexity that makes it difficult to compare the qualifications of a professional in one jurisdiction to that of a professional in another jurisdiction. As modern communication methods have evolved and as mobility of the population has increased, there has been a corresponding increase in the need for more uniformity of professional qualifications.



Certification organizations have filled this need by establishing programs that provide public protection through uniform standards of practice that meet or exceed the highest level of qualifications currently required for licensure.

In some cases, certification programs have sprung up to meet a need that was not addressed in a jurisdiction's regulatory program. This can happen when new technologies develop, such as in the case of the medical field. In other instances, certification programs are developed as an industry changes and new practitioners are needed who possess qualifications that will protect the public. One such industry is pharmacy technicians. Only 10 years ago, there was no certification program for pharmacy technicians, but as pharmacies became larger corporate entities, there was a need for a set of uniform standards to qualify individuals who

assist pharmacists. Since the creation of the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) as a private entity, many states in the United States have adopted PTCB's certification program as the sole route to licensure. (See [www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org) for more information.)

## Interior Design

Just as has happened in other professions, the certification of interior designers has evolved. NCIDQ is evolving from offering only an examination to offering a full certification program. In NCIDQ's 31-year history, the organization has changed, and now we offer much more than an examination. The examination will continue to form one part of the certification process in which education and experience are prerequisites. In addition, components of continuing education, a code of ethics and requirements for maintaining a license in jurisdictions with licensure will be added over time.

NCIDQ's core purpose is to protect the health, life safety and welfare of the public by setting standards of competence in the practice of interior design. NCIDQ's certification program furthers that purpose.

NCIDQ certification provides for movement of professionals across state, provincial and national borders. The program identifies individuals who are competent to practice in a manner that protects the public health, life safety and welfare. The competence demonstrated by the program's participants can be universally accepted as a means to achieve reciprocal registrations in multiple jurisdictions. In order for this to work, the program has to set its competency standards at the highest level of all documented standards for the participating jurisdictions.

An additional benefit of the program is that it can qualify individuals who have demonstrated competency for professional levels of membership within the professional interior design associations. With NCIDQ handling the qualification process, these associations will not need to implement any other competency-based requirements. Because the program includes a continuing education component, the professional associations can feel comfortable that the individuals who maintain their NCIDQ certification continue to practice at levels that will uphold the associations' standards for professionals.

Individual participants in the program will know that participation:

- denotes the mark of a true professional committed to safe and ethical practice;
- gains recognition, visibility and credibility;
- increases their employment opportunities and mobility between states and provinces;
- connects them to the NCIDQ registry of certified individuals (on the NCIDQ Web site); and
- provides assurance to the consumer that they have met the highest standards for the profession.

A measure of the program's success will be that all U.S. and Canadian regulatory boards voluntarily adopt the NCIDQ certification as equal to or greater than their own requirements, and therefore, use the program to qualify individuals for initial registration and reciprocal registration. Additionally, the program should be used by professional associations to qualify their professional level members.

Interior designers must be knowledgeable and skilled in all elements and

areas of designing interior spaces in order to protect the health, life safety and welfare of the public. Certification enhances and continuously raises the level of competence of practitioners, and distinguishes the participating interior designers from those working in similar, but mostly aesthetic or non-regulated, allied design disciplines. Certification signifies a professional committed to the safe and ethical practice of interior design.

Certification:

- Encompasses the current standard for credentials in the profession that meets or exceeds the highest legislated criteria (including qualifications demonstrated in education, experience, examination, continuing education and ethics);
- Denotes the mark of a professional committed to the health, life safety and welfare of the public and ethical practice;
- Gains the practitioner recognition, visibility and credibility in the marketplace;
- Increases the practitioner's employment opportunities;
- Increases reciprocity of professional practice among states and provinces;
- Connects both the practitioner and the public to NCIDQ's database of participating interior designers; and,
- Provides a level of confidence to the consumer and the employer.

As we continue to grow and evolve, our certification program will too. In the coming years, interior designers will most likely see changes to the current NCIDQ programs to bring our profession more in line with the rest of the regulated professions. This has the effect of elevating the stature of the profession within the public's eyes. ■

## NCIDQ Web Site Enhanced; Users May Update Information, Print CE Transcripts

As part of NCIDQ's commitment to upgrading its services for our Certificate holders, we have recently added an exciting new feature to our Web site that will enable active Certificate holders to access their information. You can modify your password, update your contact information and view and print your continuing education transcript, if you have one on file with us.

Active Certificate holders will receive a letter with instructions on how to access this feature. The letter includes a unique password that you can change once your information has been verified online. Once you receive the letter with your unique password assigned by NCIDQ, simply visit our Web site at [www.ncidq.org](http://www.ncidq.org) and click on the "Log into NCIDQ" link on the blue horizontal bar. Once you've done that, verify that your contact information is correct or make the necessary changes, then click the "Update/Verify Record" button.

### Amazon.com Links

In addition, NCIDQ has added other features online. The bibliography for the NCIDQ Exam is online and includes links to Amazon.com. When you purchase one of these suggested references through that link, NCIDQ receives a portion of the proceeds.

In fact, you can support NCIDQ's work through the Amazon link program when you purchase any item. Rather than opening Amazon.com in your browser, visit the NCIDQ home page at [www.ncidq.org](http://www.ncidq.org) and click on the Amazon link on the left-hand navigation bar. Make all your purchases on Amazon from that page, and NCIDQ benefits! From professional references to holiday presents, your purchases will support NCIDQ's programs.

**amazon.com**

### Get to Know Us

Are you curious about your NCIDQ Board of Directors? Have you wondered who the voice is on the phone when you call the NCIDQ office? We have recently added brief biographies and photos of your Board and staff. Click on "Who We Are" and scroll on the blue menu.

### Downloadable Forms

Save time and download the forms you need by clicking on "Forms" on the NCIDQ home page. You can print a current CEU Tracking Form, a Certificate Verification Form, a Name Change form and much more.

### Call for Photographs

Publicize your work and the value of the NCIDQ credential! NCIDQ is looking for color photographs of your interior design projects for use on our Web site and in print publications. We're looking for photos of spaces as well as users in the space, and we're looking for photos of different specialties.

Where possible, we will include a photo credit if your photo is used. You will be asked to sign an agreement allowing NCIDQ unlimited rights to use your photographs before your work is used.

To submit your photographs, please prepare scans or digital photographs with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. You can also submit prints to NCIDQ, but be aware that your work will not be returned. For digital photos or scans, only .tif and .jpg files will be accepted. Files smaller than 2 mb may be e-mailed to [Peter\\_James@ncidq.org](mailto:Peter_James@ncidq.org). Mail CDs and prints to Peter James at NCIDQ. All submissions must include the Certificate holder's name and Certificate number, the name of the project and the city and state of the project. Please note: we cannot return your submissions.

Keep checking our Web site; we will continue to add new features, including an online bookstore, so you can order publications and monographs online. ■

## New Policy Eases Financial Burden on Inactive Certificate Holders

The Board of Directors recently relaxed the fees that inactive Certificate holders must pay to reinstate their Certificate and return to active status. Previously, individuals were charged \$200 to reinstate their Certificate in addition to the current year's record maintenance fees, regardless of the number of years the Certificate had lapsed.

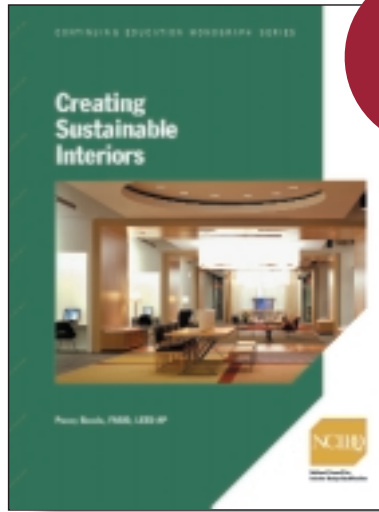
The Board felt that the \$200 fee was too harsh a penalty for those individuals who had only missed a few years. Now, inactive Certificate holders who wish to reinstate their Certificate will only pay the current record maintenance fee times the number of years they have been inactive. Easing this burden may encourage more professionals to take advantage of the benefits of having an active NCIDQ Certificate.

# Sustainable Design Monograph Now Available!

At some level, sustainability is integrated into everything we do. Simple acts like using non-toxic household products or putting thermostats on timers give way to more complex environmental decisions that affect the way people live and work in a space. Interior designers have an added responsibility to know and understand the impact of their design decisions on the environment. But sorting through the reams of information and separating fact from hype can be daunting.

NCIDQ's just-published monograph, **Creating Sustainable Interiors**, provides an essential overview of this important part of responsible design. NCIDQ monographs offer you a convenient and affordable way to stay on top of this emerging field while earning the CEUs you need for registration renewal or professional membership renewal.

Like all NCIDQ monographs, **Creating Sustainable Interiors** comes with a 25-question quiz that enables you to demonstrate mastery



**Earn .6 CEUs!**

of this important topic. **Creating Sustainable Interiors** was written by interior designer and author Penny Bonda, who is widely regarded as a leader in sustainable design issues. You will want to add this monograph to your resource library and refer to it frequently.

Bonda suggests that one day, "green design" will be as common as universal design, and codes will direct designers in the right direction. Until then, interior designers must find ways to achieve common-sense environmental solutions in the most practical way possible.

NCIDQ's **Creating Sustainable Interiors** provides you with the tools you need to build your knowledge base. Order NCIDQ's newest monograph, **Creating Sustainable Interiors**, today!

## NCIDQ Monograph Order Form

### Active Certificate holders—save 10%!

All orders include a monograph and a quiz to return to NCIDQ for credit. Prices are in US funds only and good through 12-31-06. All sales final.

### Each is worth .6 CEUs in health, safety and welfare!

- Creating Sustainable Interiors**.....\$115
- ADA Guidelines**.....\$115
- Lighting to Protect**.....\$115
- Ethics & the Design Professions**.....\$115

### Ship to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive information from NCIDQ when new monographs are published.

### Payment

Subtotal..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Less 10% discount\* for active Certificate holders..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Indicate your Certificate number here \_\_\_\_\_

For delivery to Washington, DC addresses, add 5.75%..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping/handling..... \$         \$6.95        

**Total in U.S. funds**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed     Charge my Visa/MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail this form and payment to

NCIDQ Monographs, 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 1001, Washington, DC 20036

Or fax this form and credit card information to 202-721-0221



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## NCIDQ Announces Upcoming Examination Dates

### 2006

**Spring: April 7-8**

**Fall: October 13-14**

### 2007

**Spring: March 30-31**

**Fall: September 28-29**

### 2008

**Spring: April 4-5**

**Fall: October 3-4**

Prospective candidates must submit a one-time application approximately four months before the examination and pay an application fee. All education and experience requirements must be complete at the time of the application.

Examination registration takes place 2-3 months before the examination. Complete information on the application and registration process is available at NCIDQ's Web site at [www.ncidq.org](http://www.ncidq.org).

### April 2005 NCIDQ Examination Statistics

Exam Section	Registered	Passed	Pass Rate
Section I: Principles and Practices of Interior Design	825	524	64%
Section II: Contract Documents and Administration	794	509	64%
Section III: Schematics and Design Development	763	556	73%
<b>Took All Three Sections</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>51%</b>