

WITHIN VIEW

Aandra Currie Shearer, NCIDQ No. 17159, CIDQ President

Among all the effects the past year has had on us, fatigue may be the most universal. It has been exhausting in so many respects and to varying degrees. There is however hope to be found on one front, as vaccinations in progress bring the home stretch of the pandemic into view.

[Learn how to stay active](#)

**FEELING OPTIMISTIC**

Thom Banks, Chief Executive Officer

Spring is here and with it, the promise of rapidly expanding vaccine distribution. So many of us are hopeful at the prospect of putting the pandemic behind us while acknowledging that its impact will be felt for a long, long time.

[See how HQ is engaging](#)

**Educators & the NCIDQ Exam –
Partnering for Professionalism Webinar**

April 30, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM EST

Join CIDQ's Director of Engagement Kimberly Woods, and CIDQ President Aandra Currie Shearer, for an info session on the NCIDQ Exam. This one-hour session will cover everything you and your students need to know about the NCIDQ Exam, importance of being certified, and recent updates for the spring 2021 exam administration. Bring your questions to the session or submit them ahead of time to kwoods@cidq.org. Don't miss out; **[register today.](#)**

**CIDQ WELCOMES
MATT BARUSCH!**

Matt recently joined the HQ team as **Government Affairs and Advocacy Manager**. In this position, Matt will advance CIDQ's policy agenda at the state and provincial level. His responsibilities include monitoring legislation, analyzing threats to the public from deregulatory efforts, generating advocacy resources that convey the nature and value of the NCIDQ Exam, and developing strategies to support our stakeholders in educating policy makers on the value of meaningful interior design regulation. Matt will focus on increasing understanding of the importance of reasonable regulation and its benefits to the public. He has a strong background in monitoring legislative activity, coordinating state advocacy campaigns and developing materials, in addition to successfully battling other deregulatory efforts. Before joining the team at CIDQ, Matt



held state advocacy positions with the National Association for Music Education, and the National Court Reporters Association. CIDQ is thrilled to have Matt on board – and we look forward to the impact he'll make.

ADVOCATING FOR REASONABLE REGULATION

We all know how much interior designers' work impacts the health, safety and welfare of every individual who steps foot into a building. That is why the interior design profession needs to be reasonably regulated by state/provincial government.

To date, the interior design profession has never been deregulated. States that have adopted policies like voluntary registration, allowing interior designers to practice autonomously and have "stamp and seal" privileges, have never had cause to revoke that authority. However, occupational regulation has emerged as a chief policy issue for state leaders in recent years, and many states are currently re-examining their occupational regulation policies under the guise of undue burdens of economic and social costs. Most recently, we saw this effort take form in Mississippi, where the state Legislature introduced legislation ([HB 1315](#)) that would repeal occupational licensure requirements for a number of professions, including interior design.

The path of this bill speaks to the importance of advocacy and of the need for certified interior designers to take an active role in advocating for reasonable regulation and public protection. This bill was on a fast-track, having been substituted and passed out of committee, and then passing the House in the span of a week. Now, thanks to the education of state legislators by grassroots advocates in the state, the bill has failed in Senate committee vote. We thank all MS interior designers who took action to prevent this deregulation and urge all certificate holders to have a proactive role in protecting the public.



WANTED! KNOWLEDGEABLE & EXPERIENCED BOARD MEMBERS

CIDQ is committed to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through NCIDQ Certification. We are not able to accomplish this without a strong governing body and the engagement of our volunteers. Being a **CIDQ Board Member** gives you the opportunity to expand your professional network and be an advocate for the interior design profession.

This year's Nominating Committee is looking for eligible candidates to fill the **President-Elect** position, as well as two **Director** positions. If you are devoted to the mission of CIDQ and are ready to take the next step to advancing the leadership of our organization, please complete [this application](#) and submit it to Kelly at knelson@cidq.org by **April 23, 2021**.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Benjamin Huntington, FASID, NCIDQ, NYS CID
NCIDQ Certificate No. 17672**

Benjamin Huntington, NCIDQ, founder of Veritate Design, shares his insights on volunteering with CIDQ and what it means to be a certified interior designer.

[Meet Benjamin.](#)



Why Certification Matters...to Employers

Employers should not only encourage, but expect and support their interior design practitioners to be NCIDQ Certified for:

- Risk Management
- Promotional Value
- Improved Productivity
- Happier Employees

[Learn how your your company can encourage and support employee's participation.](#)

PARTNER ADVERTISEMENT

Kickstart Your Career with ASID.

Do you know why nearly 90 percent of ASID members indicated that they were satisfied with their (ASID) membership? Because ASID advocates for ALL interior designers at EVERY stage of your career. Whatever your specialization — residential, commercial, hospitality, healthcare, government/institutional, retail, etc. — ASID has a place for you. Second, the ASID appellation signifies your commitment to excellence within the profession. Having “ASID” after your name is second to none and provides you with the competitive advantage to thrive in today’s marketplace as a new interior designer. And finally, the ASID Code of Ethics and its enforcement is recognized as the gold standard in the industry.



Start your ASID journey today. [Join here](#) by 4/30 and use **code NCIDQ21** to receive \$100 off the one-time application fee (plus, you’ll get access to over 50 hours of free CEUs and be assigned to a local chapter).

