

THANK YOU

Aandra Currie Shearer, NCIDQ No. 17159, CIDQ President

The final quarter of 2021 has snuck up on me. I have missed the typical meeting travels that mark the passing of time, and find days still seem to knit together in our work-from-home household.

[Learn more about how we've stayed engaged](#)

**PUSHING FORWARD**

Thom Banks, Chief Executive Officer

As we begin the last quarter of 2021, CIDQ remains focused on elevating the NCIDQ Exam, serving our member boards, and assisting our candidates.

[See how we're evolving and improving](#)

NCIDQ



Total number of
Active NCIDQ
Certificate Holders



Number of Approved
Applications
(Fall 2021)



Number of Exam
Registrations
(Fall 2021)

The [CIDQ Annual Meeting 2021](#) will now take place **virtually** on November 11th & 12th. During the conference, **state and provincial regulatory board staff, their Delegates, representatives from interior design professional organizations, and invited guests** will come together virtually to discuss CIDQ, the NCIDQ Exam, and issues related to interior design regulation. Attendees will be able to learn key strategic initiatives for CIDQ, exchange ideas and tools, and collaborate with their peers through a reimagined digital experience.



CIDQ 2021 TREGRE AWARD RECIPIENT KARI FRONTERA

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to recognize Kari Frontera as the 2021 Louis S. Tregre Award winner. Kari oversees program and project management for multiple design and construction projects for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Kari is an interior designer and architect who previously worked with Gensler.

[Meet Kari](#)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Corinn Soro, NCIDQ, CID, CHID, EDAC, SEGD NCIDQ Certificate No. 29302

Corinn Soro, Associate/Senior Interior Designer with Kideney Architects, speaks to why she became NCIDQ Certified and why she volunteers her time with CIDQ. Plus, get a peak into her self-published children's book on interior design.

[Get to Know Corinn](#)



ADVOCACY UPDATE

In this last edition of the Q for 2021, CIDQ takes a look back at how we've amplified our advocacy for the NCIDQ Exam and the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the built environment. As we all know, occupational regulation is under threat. CIDQ leadership believes that it's more important than ever that our member boards and certificate holders have the tools necessary to communicate the importance of reasonable regulation and public protection through responsible, regulated practice.

[Here's a look at recent advocacy news](#)

ATTENTION EDUCATORS!

For your students, the path to reaching their professional potential begins with the IDFX. Encourage them to start their interior design careers on the right foot. Help your students save with a discount voucher and practice questions and set them up for NCIDQ Certification!

[Request an IDFX discount voucher for your students](#)

[The Value of NCIDQ Certification:](#) [Set Your Students up for Success with the NCIDQ Exam](#)

This webinar is our second this year as part of our continued partnership with IDEC and will take place on Friday, October 22nd at 1pm EST. CIDQ's Director of Engagement Kimberly Woods will lead a panel discussion of educators to learn how they are preparing students for graduation, including talking about the NCIDQ Exam, incorporating internships into their curriculum, and guiding students as they begin their careers. While this webinar is open to all, if you do not have an IDEC account, you will need to [sign up for one](#) in order to complete the registration process.



re new

NCIDQ
Certification

above (and more) to take place.

Stay active to:

- Use the NCIDQ appellation to display your professionalism, expertise, and

commitment. Example: Amy Smith, NCIDQ, FASID, LEED AP

- Be included in a searchable **public** directory of NCIDQ Certified interior designers, available to prospective clients and employers.
- Have your verified information provided to any regulatory board you wish.

Renewal payments are due annually in April or October depending upon the certificate holder's expiration date. We thank you for your support and ask that you [renew your certificate](#) so we can continue building a stronger profession.





**Aandra Currie
Shearer**

CIDQ President

NCIDQ Certificate
No. 17159

President's Message

The final quarter of 2021 has snuck up on me. I have missed the typical meeting travels that mark the passing of time, and find days still seem to knit together in our work-from-home household. One excellent change has occurred however — the return to full-time classes for my high school junior — from which I have gleefully bid adieu to noon sleep-ins and lazy days yawning out in front of her. I can imagine that our interior design educators and students alike are also thrilled to be back in the classrooms and studios, excited to stretch those mental muscles in person. CIDQ staff have been busy this year with a new engagement and outreach strategy including excellent webinars and Q and A sessions with interior design schools and organisations, as well as with IDEC. If you are interested in having a CIDQ session at your school or place of business, contact Kimberly Woods at kwoods@cidq.org. CIDQ aims to engage and support students and educators alike as an integral part of our current strategic plan.

Our virtual Annual Meeting will take place in early November. We hope to see our member boards, delegates, staff, and invited guests at the meeting! The draft agenda is available on the CIDQ website.

It's been a peculiar year to be president of CIDQ, with virtual meetings to date. There are board members I have yet to greet face-to-face, and staff I haven't seen for close to two years. There are several committees and task forces which have been working diligently this year under the same conditions. Were we in the same room I could thank each of you for your work personally, but for now this must suffice: you all play critical roles in the success of CIDQ, which directly relates to the strength of the interior design profession. Whether this is your daily gig, or your way to contribute to the community, I thank you for continuing to lean in under less-than-ideal circumstances. I am grateful for your commitment and care in the work you do for CIDQ.

Continue to stay safe and be kind, and look after the health, safety, and welfare of all people!



Thom Banks
CIDQ Chief
Executive Officer

CEO's Message

As we begin the last quarter of 2021, CIDQ remains focused on elevating the NCIDQ Exam, serving our member boards, and assisting our candidates.

CIDQ continues to work closely with our exam development consultants and psychometricians to evolve and improve the NCIDQ Exam digging deeper into candidate performance and test experience data, investigating alternative testing formats, and exploring different test delivery modalities including remotely proctored exams.

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue of Q Connection, CIDQ has doubled down on our member board outreach efforts and expanded our available advocacy resources to add value for our members and stakeholders. Connection is key to what we do and I'm very pleased at the strides CIDQ is making. I hope you find some of the new detailed explanation of some of our exam content valuable.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak in-person with a group of students at ASID's national student summit, SCALE. Although I've spoken to many groups virtually over the last 16 months, this was the first in-person presentation since last March and it was joyous to connect with them, hear their passion for the profession, and provide them with information and encouragement to pursue the NCIDQ credential at their earliest opportunity. We continue to seek ways to increase exam transparency, reduce test-taker anxiety, and streamline the application process for our candidates. We've received good feedback to the recently created application process "explainer" video on our website, are implementing user experience improvements online, and have additional candidate resources in the works.

Yes, COVID uncertainty remains and complicates our organizational decision making just as it does in our personal lives. But we push forward having all grown more accustomed to the need for greater flexibility and grace. I look forward to seeing CIDQ's member board delegates and staff at our virtual annual meeting in November. We've got a lot of catching up to do.



Kari Frontera
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 171116

CIDQ 2021 Tregre Award Recipient Kari Frontera

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to recognize Kari Frontera as the 2021 Louis S. Tregre Award winner. Kari oversees program and project management for multiple design and construction projects for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Kari is an interior designer and architect who previously worked with Gensler.

Kari's very active journey with CIDQ began back in 2011 volunteering on the Practicum Committee, where she served for three (3) years. Kari then joined the CIDQ Board as a director, then served as president-elect, president, and past president, while assuming roles on the Finance Committee during those years. Kari has also chaired the Nominating and Tregre Award Committees and served on the CIDQ/NCARB Comparison Task Force.

Last year's Tregre Award winner, David Hanson, nominated Kari for the 2021 award. David states, "Kari's dedication to her work is immense and she made a particularly momentous contribution during her board term, and that was acting as the board liaison to the conversion of the Practicum exam from paper based to the computerized format. Kari had a hands-on role and worked tirelessly on this portfolio. She was definitely one of the key contributors who ensured a successful transition."

CIDQ CEO Thom Banks says, "I have had the pleasure of working with Kari in one capacity or another since I started at CIDQ. I've always been impressed with her openness to new ideas, forward-thinking approach, and well-reasoned positions which consider the perspectives of all stakeholders. Kari is guided solely by what is best for the organization and her strong sense of personal integrity. She's smart, decisive, and "owns" her decisions embodying all that one could wish for in a volunteer."

Created in 1991 to honor the memory of Louis S. Tregre, the founding director of CIDQ, the award salutes volunteers who have worked diligently and consistently to further the goals of NCIDQ Certification. The Louis S. Tregre Award recognizes outstanding volunteer service to CIDQ at the grassroots level.

Volunteer Spotlight



**Corinn Soro, NCIDQ, CID,
CHID, EDAC, SEGD**

NCIDQ Certificate No. 29302

Corinn Soro, Associate/Senior Interior Designer with Kideney Architects, speaks to why she became NCIDQ Certified and why she volunteers her time with CIDQ. Plus, get a peak into her self-published children's book on interior design.

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ and why did you decide to volunteer with CIDQ?

A: I became involved with CIDQ more as I spoke to students through ASID about advancing the profession, legislation and education.

Q: Tell us a little about your most recent CIDQ-specific volunteering experiences.

A: As an NCIDQ Ambassador, I have engaged with students in their professional practice classes to explain the NCIDQ Certification process and why it is important in the field of interior design.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified and why?

A: I became certified in 2013. I always knew I wanted to take the exam to distinguish myself as a professional and promote the advancement of the interior design profession.

Q: How has having an NCIDQ Certificate benefited you and your career?

A: I have been able to assure our clients that I am qualified to assist them in executing their projects. I have also been able to achieve the title of Certified Interior Designer as recognized by NY State and become a Certified Healthcare Interior Designer through AAHID.

Q: What would you tell a colleague who is considering taking the NCIDQ Exam?

A: Please take the exam! Distinguish yourself and set the standard for what interior designers are responsible for as a recognized profession.

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?

A: NCIDQ Certification helps define the profession and the minimum competency as a standard for all interior designers.

Q: What have you learned thru volunteering with CIDQ/how has it impacted your life?

A: My involvement with CIDQ as a volunteer has taught me more about the different ways people learn.

Q: What advice would you give to those considering volunteering their time with CIDQ?

A: I would encourage others to volunteer in CIDQ efforts as one unified voice of the profession.

Q: Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

A: I authored a self-published children's book, [Fiona Finer The Interior Designer](#), about what interior designers do (but honestly a lot of adults could use it too!).



Advocacy Update

In this last edition of the Q for 2021, CIDQ takes a look back at how we've amplified our advocacy for the NCIDQ Exam and the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the built environment. As we all know, occupational regulation is under threat. CIDQ leadership believes that it's more important than ever that our member boards and certificate holders have the tools necessary to communicate the importance of reasonable regulation and public protection through responsible, regulated practice.

Adding a dedicated advocacy position to CIDQ's HQ team has allowed for more meaningful engagement and collaboration with our member boards and other jurisdictions, professional organizations, and fellow credentialing organizations. We've worked to open the lines of communication with our member board members and provide more touch points and greater support for the important work they do. And we've expanded our ability to provide advocacy resources and support to our member boards and industry professionals. Here is a quick look at some recent news in advocacy:

- CIDQ has worked with legislative coalitions and campaigns in several states to provide important information and answer stakeholder questions about the NCIDQ Exam. Thanks to these coalitions of hard-working practitioners and advocacy professionals from ASID and IIDA, legislation advancing reasonable regulation of interior design was passed in North Carolina and Oklahoma.
- We have provided and presented testimony on the NCIDQ Exam to legislative committees in several states.
- We've created unique advocacy one-pagers detailing the exam's coverage on fire safety and building codes for legislator education accessible on our website.
- We've taken a larger participatory role with like-minded organizations with the common goal of reasonable occupational regulation, such as the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR).

Stay tuned for more presentations in our two new ongoing webinar series, the Quarterly Advocacy Webinar for member board members, and the Advocacy for Ambassadors series. And keep checking back with our new advocacy bulletin, "[Speaking Out](#)", for updates on advocacy and regulatory developments in the interior design industry.

It's been a big and eventful year, and there's much more work to be done. If you have any questions about CIDQ's advocacy work and initiatives, please contact Matt Barusch at mbarusch@cidq.org.