The single source for certifying healthcare interior designers

The American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID) is a nonprofit organization committed to the development and administration of the CHID Certified Healthcare Interior Designer® Exam, the only certification program for healthcare interior designers. It is not a membership organization, but rather an organization that board-certifies interior designers in the U.S. and Canada that specialize in acute care, ambulatory care, and residential care facility design.

To promote the highest standards and values, AAHID:

- requires ongoing continuing education for all certificants to enhance their professional development, and maintain the highest level of professionalism, integrity and competence
- backs evidence-based research focused on the impact of the design of the built environment on outcomes
- values partners who transform the healthcare environment into one for healing, improving outcomes and maximizing efficiency
- supports higher education institutions through advocacy and support of their programs and students

Volunteers and partners

Volunteers are important to AAHID’s operation. Providing strategic thinking and leadership to drive AAHID initiatives, volunteers serve on the board of directors, review applicant portfolios, lead training and education presentations, and are involved in test development activities.

Industry Partners are companies that believe in and support AAHID’s mission to qualify and certify healthcare interior designers. The healthcare organizations that buy Industry Partners’ products hire CHIDs as consultants.

Our mission

The mission of the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers is the certification of interior designers qualified by education, examination, training and experience to provide interior design services to the healthcare industry.

Our vision

The vision of the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID) is to be the essential certification program for healthcare interior designers.
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Dear colleagues, fellow certificants, and industry partners,

Wow! Where has the time gone? My tenure as board president is nearing completion, and as I look back on the accomplishments AAHID has achieved this year, I am excited to share the highlights from 2017 and the strategic priorities that we will continue to advance in 2018.

Distinguish yourself!

Energized by the results of our 2016 market assessment, which validated the benefits of specialty certification among professionals practicing in the healthcare interior design space, the Board embraced a grassroots strategy to build awareness and brand visibility. We started the year off with a commitment to spread the message about the benefits of earning the CHID Certified Healthcare Interior Designer® credential.

Our first step was to brand CHID as the certification that distinguishes healthcare interior designers as competent, committed and knowledgeable. New advertising material was designed with the “Distinguish Yourself” theme. Our branded campaign, including a candidate brochure and gallery display, was launched to coincide with this year’s Healthcare Design Expo and Conference in Orlando. Advertising spreads have also appeared in major publications such as interiors+sources magazine, and Healthcare Design magazine.

Speaking of HCD, our presence has been much more visible. AAHID hosted a “packed-house” educational session on acoustics and also hosted our first ever cocktail hour/Annual Meeting which proved to be a success with over 125 attendees! One of our Industry Partners was overheard saying “this is the place to be with the who’s who in healthcare interior design!” This is just the kind of excitement and buzz we were seeking to raise awareness and build momentum for CHID and inspire more designers to take the CHID exam!
We love our industry partners

We would like to recognize all our industry partners (IPs) – new and long-standing. Your support and commitment to the CHID certification program, makes it possible for AAHID to further our mission and provide certification of interior designers qualified by education, examination, training and experience. This year, our industry partners have been instrumental in facilitating outreach efforts to potential CHID exam candidates, providing networking opportunities for our current certificants, and sponsoring events to help us enhance our visibility.

Collaborative activities in 2017 included:

- Kwalu held a Round Table meeting for certificants in November in Atlanta where they showed new innovative product and received direct feedback from our CHID industry leaders.
- The development of an Industry Partner Advisory Council. Our first inaugural call was a great success and we thank all that accepted the invitation to participate. We hope that the energy and thoughtfulness experienced during the first council meeting will continue into the new year.

Last, but not least, a special thank you to those IPs (Ecore Commercial Flooring / Herman Miller Healthcare / HEWI / MechoSystems / National Office Furniture / Skyline Art Services) who helped us throw a great party this year. The AAHID Reception and Annual Meeting would not have been possible without this added support.
Bring it on

I personally would like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful group of CHIDs that have given their time and energy to serve on the Board of Directors this year – Libby Laguta, Lori McGilberry, Helen Lanes, Maria Lopez, Kristin Ellingsen, Ghina Itani and Nancy Bounds. I am humbled by their dedication, drive and talent. I have been honored to serve this past year as president. It has truly been a wonderful year full of purpose and excitement made possible by this wonderful group of volunteers. I am also excited for the coming year and with the incoming President Libby Laguta, CHID, EDAC of McMillian Pazdan Smith Architecture in Charleston. She is the perfect person to keep the momentum going and help AAHID grow even stronger in 2018!

I hope you all feel the excitement that we feel here at AAHID as we end one year and welcome in the hope and prospect of another great year! I ask you all to continue the talk. Tell your colleagues and clients about the importance of CHID. Send us their names and emails. Ask them to take the exam. Welcome them to become industry partners. This is truly your organization. With small contributions from each of us, we can make it more successful.

Get out there and Distinguish Yourself!

Laura Ethridge-Morris
Congratulations and welcome to our new 2017 CHIDs:

- Patricia Bell, CHID
- Stacey Brimmer, CHID
- Michelle Clark, CHID
- January Corbin, CHID
- Stephanie Fallon, CHID
- Tinatin Giorgadze, CHID
- Jennifer Hrosko, CHID
- Natalie Owens, CHID
- Angela Rinehart, CHID
- Stephanie Story, CHID
- Christine Trupiano, CHID
- Nicole Wood, CHID

CHID receives registered trademark designation

In 2017 AAHID officially registered the CHID credential with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The certification mark, as used by authorized persons, is intended to certify that services meet certain performance and quality standards established by the Certifier in the healthcare interior design industry. When displayed in print, the proper registration reads: CHID Certified Healthcare Interior Designer®.

NEW e-learning series – testing preparedness for the CHID exam

We are pleased to announce that production of the new recorded e-Learning Series is nearing completion. This much anticipated product, will provide a comprehensive body of knowledge focused on healthcare design and align with the exam content outline. CHID exam candidates will now have access to valuable information and practical application to help “fill the gap” as they prepare to sit for the exam.

Again, we would like to extend a special thank you to Barbara J. Huelat, CHID FASID EDAC, author of the acute care sessions, Jocelyn Stroupe, CHID IIDA ASID EDAC, author of the ambulatory care sessions, and Kristin Ellingsen, CHID IIDA CCCID EDAC, author of the residential care sessions.

We look forward to sharing the exciting details about the launch.
AAHID/Steelcase Health fellowship recipient presents at 2017 Healthcare Design Conference

The 2017 Healthcare Design Conference was the setting for Yongyeon Cho, the 2016 award recipient, to present his work entitled: “Wellness Design Evaluation Criteria For The Main Lobby In A Healthcare Facility.” If you missed Yongyeon’s presentation, the final report can be accessed on aahid.org.

The purpose of the AAHID /Steelcase Health Graduate Research Fellowship is to promote the importance of interior design research and to contribute to the body of knowledge for healthcare interior design, which is consistent with the mission of AAHID. It also reflects Steelcase Health’s mission of research and evidence-based design to change the way people experience healthcare environments. The fellowship is designed to assist new investigators in initiating the research aspect of their education by providing seed money to afford graduate students the opportunity to pursue new or novel areas of research.

AAHID supports educational session at HCD Conference: Designing Quiet Buildings

AAHID was pleased to support an educational session at the Healthcare Design Conference. Continuously focused on improving the patient experience, the session highlighted the importance that acoustics play in the healing process and patient privacy. The discussion, which focused on effective acoustic designs to help remediate existing issues, was led by an expert panel consisting of: Ghina Itani, CHID ASID EDAC, Principal at Itani Design Concepts, Teri Lura Bennett, CID CHID IIDA EDAC NIHD, Lead Interior Designer at John Hopkins Health System and Cerami & Associates’ Robby Deem, LEED AP BD+C, Senior Associate.

The CHID credential means you are distinguished and qualified by education, examination and work experience.

Not CHID certified?
Email info@aahid.org for information on becoming certified.
Candidate Forums and Industry Roundtables continue to be a great venue for heightening awareness of the CHID certification program and promoting our Industry Partners (IPs). These events, hosted by IPs, result in reciprocal opportunities for our IPs and CHID certificants to help one another. We are excited about the new directions that AAHID can move in and how we can grow the certification program...and we are even more excited about the opportunities that are afforded to our certificants and IPs too! We welcome your engagement in our continued efforts to promote the certification program. Participating in one of these events affords IPs the opportunity to showcase their products, educational programs and research projects.

Candidate forums could be coming to a city near you!

Designed to inform potential CHID candidates about the certification program, candidate forums offer guidance on how to prepare for the examination as well as provide valuable networking opportunities with our IPs and design firms who sponsor these local events. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsoring IP, attendees have the chance to win a scholarship that covers the cost of the CHID examination. AAHID hosted local events in Santa Fe Springs, CA, Arlington, VA and Denver, CO in 2017. These forums featured a Legacy Panel of CHIDs discussing the history of AAHID, AAHID’s mission, as well as tips and encouragement for sitting for the CHID exam. AAHID looks forward to rolling out more Candidate Forums in different parts of the country in 2018.

Roundtable discussions provide opportunities for both industry and CHIDs

As part of the Industry Roundtables, our partners are now able to gain invaluable product feedback from a broad range of certified healthcare interior design experts from around the country. Held at a location of the partners’ choosing, CHIDs are invited to attend these events where both parties leverage the other’s expertise to review products, reflect on the impact of pushing innovation in the industry, and offer CHIDs across the country the opportunity to network...a win/win for all! Designed to provide an interactive setting for CHID certificants to openly discuss with the industry partners, their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes about or related to products presented by the company. The objective is to engage in conversation that will lead to enhanced product awareness and positioning in the healthcare market. AAHID looks forward to bringing forth more Industry Roundtables in 2018.
Total CHID certificants
AAHID realized an 8% increase in board certified healthcare interior designers from 2016 to 2017. Increased marketing and outreach activities including Industry Partner sponsored candidate events, has helped fuel this growth.

Forecasted revenue
Eighty-seven percent of AAHID’s revenue comes from the generous support of Industry Partners and is allocated to the advancement of the certification of healthcare interior designers. Revenue streams also are generated from the certification and recertification programs. Additional revenue, which largely is reinvested in the field of healthcare design, comes from donations and sponsorships from external organizations.

Forecasted expense
Investment continues to be made in the mission and vision of AAHID, which is focused on certifying healthcare interior designers. Through the work of our governing body, certification and recertification programs, and external activities at conferences or events, we are able to strengthen the foundation of the academy.
Our Industry Partners and What They Do

The American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers is proud to partner with industry leaders who share a commitment to transforming the healthcare environment through interior design.

**Art/Accessories**
- Carolina
- National Office Furniture
- Peter Pepper Products
- Skyline Art Services

**Association/Organization**
- The Vinyl Institute

**Bath/Restroom**
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- Porcelanosa USA

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- LG Hausys
- LonSeal Flooring
- Mannington Commercial
- Mohawk Group
- Patcraft
- Porcelanosa USA
- Shaw Contract

**Furniture**
- Allseating
- Carolina
- David Edwards
- Haworth Health Environments
- Herman Miller Healthcare
- IOA
- KI
- Kimball Healthcare
- Krug
- Kwali
- National Office Furniture
- Peter Pepper Products
- SitOnIt Seating
- Spec Furniture
- Stance Healthcare
- Steelcase Health
- Versteel
- Wieland Healthcare

**Headwalls/Wall Mounts**
- Armstrong Ceiling Solutions
- KI

**Lighting**
- Haworth Health Environments
- National Office Furniture

**Surfaces**
- Alto
- Construction Specialists, Inc
- Forbo Flooring Systems
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**Window Treatments**
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Does your team have a Board Certified Healthcare Interior Designer? Visit aahid.org to learn more about this elite certification.
Congratulations to AAHID on their continued growth and success!

Did you know...that 15% of the CHID exam is focused on residential healthcare facilities? See the candidate handbook at aahid.org for more information.
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• How you can volunteer for a leadership role
• How you can become an Industry Partner
• Upcoming 2018 Industry News & Events