

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

2/17/2011

Susan Hines, Managing Director of Public Relations
Design-Build Institute of America
202-454-7542, shines@dbia.org
www.dbia.org

DESIGN-BUILD INSTITUTE OF AMERICA EXPANDS REACH OF DBIA CREDENTIAL

“Associate DBIA™” now recognizes design-build expertise for pre-award professionals, emerging professionals and experienced practitioners new to design-build

The Design-Build Certification Board (DBCBC) has expanded the reach of DBIA’s certification program. The program is intended to establish an accepted and recognized standard of design-build knowledge and experience. DBIA has certified “hands-on” professionals since 2002. Through coursework and testing, these individuals demonstrate an understanding of best practices in every phase of design-build project delivery, from proposal preparation to substantial completion.

Previously, only practitioners with design or construction degrees and significant design-build hands-on experience qualified for permanent designation status.

Recognizing the importance of full team integration early in the process, the DBCBC decided the existing program failed to properly recognize the team members and owners’ representatives who are key early on in the design-build process. Examples include acquisition specialists, as well as legal, marketing and business development professionals who are critical to the owner and the pre-award design-build team. Individuals more involved in the post-award process will continue to be recognized under the existing Professional DBIA™ credential.

Both private firms and public agencies train personnel from a variety of disciplines and departments in the best practice developed by DBIA. Now these professionals may seek the Assoc. DBIA™ certification as evidence of their familiarity with the entire design-build process in addition to the best practices pertaining to their areas of expertise. Recognized as design-build experts within their spheres, these professionals may renew their Assoc. DBIA™ indefinitely by earning continuing education credits.

“Design-build requires collaboration and teamwork from project inception to completion,” said DBIA Executive Director Lisa Washington. “DBIA’s certification program should reflect and acknowledge the important role legal, marketing, acquisition and other pre-award professionals play in the process and we are please to adopt the certification board’s recommendation.”

“Single source contracting remains the basis for design-build and is an essential difference between this method and other forms of integrated delivery,” noted DBCBC Chair Marty Hedlund. “True design-build only occurs when everyone understands the process, the expectations, and is prepared to fully engage in the collaborative process. The Assoc. DBIA™ credential will expand

the Institute's educational outreach and ensure even more qualified design-build professionals among our ranks."

Four courses covering all aspects of the delivery method form the core of DBIA's certification program. Testing ensures that candidates have a thorough understanding of the fundamentals, principles, contracts, risk management and post-award process associated with the delivery method. All DBIA credential holders must maintain familiarity with current knowledge through continuing education and must accrue 24 hours of approved continuing education credit every two years to be eligible for renewal.

Emerging A/E/C professionals may choose to hold the Associate DBIA™ credential while they acquire the two to six years of hands-on design-build project experience necessary to fulfill the requirements for the Professional DBIA™ credential. Similarly, seasoned practitioners new to design-build project delivery and interested in gaining an understanding of best practices may hold Assoc. DBIA™ certification. These architects, engineers and general and specialty contractors may eventually gain the project experience necessary to obtain the Design-Build Professional™ certification.

Design-build is a collaborative team approach that integrates design and construction with a single-point of responsibility contract. Formed in 1993, and based in Washington, DC, the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) unites project owners and all industry participants. DBIA is the only organization devoted to defining, teaching and promoting best practices in design-build.

###