

## A New Day, a New DHI— How Have We Done?

By Jerry Heppes Sr., CAE

In the February issue of *Doors + Hardware* magazine, we announced that the new day of DHI was coming in 2016. An overview of our new direction was presented in an article entitled, “*We asked, you answered, and we evolved.*” The article noted the upcoming changes to our education, certification, advocacy, membership matters and membership experience. We stated that we are no longer your dad’s DHI and that we wanted to engage with you to help further your career and enjoyment of this diverse and dynamic industry.

We wanted these changes to give you a sense of belonging to something bigger and more meaningful; an organization of which you can be proud. DHI is not about an institute delivering education and certification; it is about *you*, our members—*door security and safety professionals*.

So what have we accomplished since that announcement? Quite a lot:

- In February, we announced our new name and brand, DHI—Door Security and Safety Professionals.
- In May, at conNextions 2016, we announced the new credential program with a live-streamed event (you can still review on our website) to the industry and an animated video to explain the changes.
- In August, we launched the new DHI.ORG featuring our new inclusive feel that provides our members a home for their professional development and careers.
- In September, our new education Learning Management System (LMS), DHI’s TopClass, was introduced with a video explaining its many features. Consistent with our approach in other mediums, TopClass is a tool that can be personalized for you, our member. The education transcript component will be launched soon, allowing you and your company to track your education progress. In addition, the new LMS site houses our new monthly webinars, free to members, and the archive of previous webinars, great for CEP points. It will

also house our new education vehicles such as short product videos, live online programs and our new education offerings to support our new credentials. This education will also be perfect for those who are not interested in the credentials but just want to learn!

- This month, we will launch the Door & Hardware Industry Associate (DHIA) program—the first level of technical education in our credentialing program and the new Industry Orientation program. This is completely supported with online education!
- Earlier this year, we announced our new policy of eliminating specific course requirements for our credentials, both new and legacy. We will continue to build this system with assessment tests to determine one’s ability, so they can decide whether they need to take the class before they sit for a credential exam or an advanced class.

What’s next? Our new automated testing program—Kryterion Testing System—will launch soon, with testing sites around the globe. Our first test in this system will be for the Door & Hardware Technician (DHT) credential and will be available in early 2017. After we launch our DHT automated testing, we will launch an upgraded AHC exam, also delivered using Kryterion testing centers. This will be followed in 2017 and 2018 with exams for our third-level certifications and the education to support them.

Also, we have plans to launch at least two online communities in 2017—one for FDAI members and the Door Security Growth Community for the generations following behind the Baby Boomers.

The future is bright, and the new DHI—Door Security and Safety Professionals—continues to evolve to meet your needs. I’d say we are well on our way! ■

**JERRY HEPPESS SR.**, CAE, is the CEO of DHI. If you’d like to comment on this article or any others within the December issue, email [dgable@dhi.org](mailto:dgable@dhi.org).