

Continuing Our Progress in 2017

By Jerry Heppes Sr., CAE

Last month I updated you on our accomplishments since we launched the New Day, New DHI campaign in 2016. I also mentioned some of the initiatives that you will see in this new year, including our new automated testing program, Kryterion Testing System, and our new credential, the Level Two DHT – Door + Hardware Technician.

I wanted to follow up and let you know about even more of our new initiatives scheduled for this year:

- At press time, we launched our newest certificate in our credential and certification program update—the Door + Hardware Industry Associate (DHIA) certificate. The DHIA is the first level of technical recognition you can earn with just two online classes. Already, more than 80 door security + safety professionals have earned the DHIA certificate.
- We just launched a complimentary industry orientation program, which is a series of videos that will continue to roll out in 2017 for newcomers to learn more about the door security + safety industry and the great career opportunities it offers. The first video is called *Safely Securing the Built Environment through Building, Fire, and Life Safety Codes* and can be accessed on DHI.org or our YouTube channel.
- Our Education and Certification Team is launching the exam for the DHT – Door & Hardware Technician credential in the first quarter of 2017. This is level two of our new credential and certification program. Stay tuned for those details. In addition, there will be new webinars, online classes, and local learning opportunities.
- This year we will launch online, member-only communities to allow for peer interaction, idea sharing, identification of critical issues facing the industry, as well as career development.
- Connexions 2017 is scheduled for May 10-12 in sunny Phoenix, Ariz., featuring three days of stimulating educational sessions, professional development and networking opportunities.
- Our 2017 Spring Technical Schools in both the U.S. and Canada, scheduled for April 2-9 in Virginia and May 29-June 2 in Montreal; and our Fall Technical Schools scheduled for Oct. 22-29 in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Nov. 6-10 in Calgary.

Door Security & Safety Foundation

- As we went to press, the Door Security & Safety Foundation launched its *Opening the Door to School Safety* campaign. This campaign, which includes a new educational video on the dangers and unintended consequences of barricade devices, stresses the importance of securing classrooms without compromising life safety.

The Foundation is proud to collaborate with AASA - The School Superintendents Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals, ASIS, BHMA and many other allied organizations who are contacting their members on our behalf to spread this message. Our public relations firm, Kellen, is also reaching out to the media in the U.S. and Canada, as this issue is a growing concern on both sides of the border. You can read more about the campaign and how you can help beginning on page 24.

- In addition to the new campaign, the Foundation had a very busy year building awareness and delivering education to healthcare facility managers, facility engineers, AHJs and code officials to help them understand fire door inspection regulations resulting from CMS adoption of the 2012 edition of *NFPA 101 – The Life Safety Code*.®
- Our partnership with NFPA continues to grow, the latest example being a one-day course we built and taught together last month to healthcare facility managers, facility engineers, building contractors, owners and consultants. It was such a success we will be doing four more in 2017.
- The Foundation's scholarship program continues to grow, so you will see additional scholarship opportunities supporting door security + safety professionals seeking DHI education in 2017.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our members. Thank you for your loyalty throughout the year—we're excited to continue our progress together in 2017! ■



JERRY HEPPES SR., CAE, is the CEO of DHI. If you'd like to comment on this article or any others within the January issue, email dgable@dhi.org.