



## 5 Students Graduate From Inaugural Workforce Development Program

**July 16, 2025 – Washington, DC** — The Door Security and Safety Foundation (DSSF) and the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI) proudly announce the graduation of five students from the first-ever Workforce Development Program — a landmark initiative aimed at preparing the next generation of talent for careers in the door and hardware industry.

The newly certified graduates have successfully completed the Door and Hardware Industry Associate (DHIA) certificate program, marking a significant milestone in the industry's effort to build a sustainable pipeline of skilled professionals.

"This is a proud moment not only for these students but for the entire industry," said James Gammon, CFDAI, DHI's chief executive officer. "We launched this program with the vision of solving a critical workforce shortage, and these graduates represent the first step toward achieving that goal."

### Addressing an Urgent Industry Need

Launched in April 2025, the Workforce Development Program was created in response to the growing demand for skilled labor in the door and hardware industry where manufacturers, distributors, and other employers face increasing challenges in hiring qualified candidates amid a wave of retirements.

Through a strategic partnership with Prince William County Schools in Virginia, 17 students enrolled in the free, self-paced online program earlier this year. Today's five graduates are the first to complete more than 40 hours of foundational coursework, earning the DHIA certificate and gaining essential knowledge in architectural doors, hardware, and building codes.

"This program helps young people realize that they can build a strong, stable, and meaningful career without a traditional college degree," said Ben Boomer, Door Security and Safety Foundation president. "Employers have told us again and again, if someone shows up with even basic knowledge of our industry, they'll hire them immediately."

### Program Highlights

- Free, self-paced online coursework with no prerequisites, including:
  - COR101 – Fundamentals of Architectural Doors and Hardware
  - COR102 – Introduction to Building Codes
- Students earn the DHIA certificate after completing 40+ hours of coursework
- Eligibility: High school or college enrollment, access to a computer and internet, and no prior industry employment

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- After certification, students are featured in [DHI's Career Center](#) and promoted to local employers seeking new talent

## Looking Ahead

With this first success, DHI and DSSF are actively working to expand the program to more schools and communities across the country.

“Seeing these five students complete the program proves what’s possible when education, industry, and community come together,” Gammon said. “We look forward to supporting even more students on their path to becoming future leaders in our field.”

## Get Involved

DHI and the Foundation are actively enrolling additional students across the country. To learn more or begin enrollment:

### Contact:

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## About the Door Security and Safety Foundation (DSSF)

The Door Security and Safety Foundation advocates for the critical role of certified professionals in maintaining the balance between life safety and security in non-residential buildings. Through campaigns like Opening the Door to School Safety and outreach to healthcare facilities, the Foundation raises awareness about fire door inspections, code compliance, and the dangers of temporary door locking devices. DSSF also provides education, scholarships, and resources to support safe, secure building openings and promote industry expertise.