

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## EXPERT-LED CODE UPDATE TRAINING AT DHI CONNEXTIONS

by Gigi Wood

One of the best parts about DHI conNextions is the people — especially the networking, visiting with old friends and learning from the best in the business. Such was the case during the “Code Update for Access Control and Electrified Hardware” session on the first day of the 2022 conNextions, led by Lori Greene, one of the most widely-known and well-respected DHI professionals. As audience members filed into the room, she greeted most by name — some of whom she had worked with for years — and pointed out to them the few remaining seats in the standing-room-only educational session.

Greene, DAHC/CDC, FDAI, FDHI, CCPR, is manager of codes and resources for Allegion and is known by many in the industry as one of the leading experts in code changes, and the impact those changes have on how DHI professionals perform their work. She has 30 years of industry experience as a distributor and specification writer, and now provides support and education on the code requirements that apply to door openings. Her blog [www.iDigHardware.com](http://www.iDigHardware.com) is a popular resource for the industry, and is published in each issue of *Doors + Hardware* as her monthly Decoded column. She is a member of the Builders Hardware

Manufacturers Association (BHMA) Codes and Government Affairs Committee, which works in development of the International Building Code (IBC). She is also very involved with school security/safety awareness.

“At BHMA, we participate in the code-development process,” she said. “So if you guys are calling me with questions, and I love that, I keep track of all of those questions. Then every three years, a group of us at BHMA, we work together to make those code change proposals.”

Some of those proposed code changes need to be properly approved and adopted over time, but others are changed as clarifications to the code.

“We’re in there, making these changes all the time,” Greene said. “Some of the changes are clarifications. In the 2021 or the 2024, there are changes coming that help clarify the code. That’s why it’s really good to learn about what’s coming, even before it’s coming.”

Knowing what changes are coming can allow DHI professionals to plan ahead, and potentially help plan for project alterations to accommodate those upcoming code updates.

“Last year, I talked about a change to courtyards, how to secure a



courtyard within a school; that’s one people struggle with,” she said. “Even if that hasn’t been adopted in your jurisdiction, that change that’s coming could be used in order to request a code modification. So you could go to the AHJ (authority having jurisdiction) and say, ‘We’re still on the 2012, but in the 2021 there’s a change coming, and I would like to have permission to use this change before we adopt the 2021 code.’”

In addition to IBC code changes, Greene also discussed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) updates.

“I work sometimes with healthcare facilities and what code do they care about? NFPA 101, the 2012 edition, because that’s what The Joint Commission is going to use when they come in and do their inspections. But they can’t care

only about that, because their state code might be different. There are reference standards, like NFPA 80, for fire doors and they need to know about that,” she said.

Greene led the participants through various IBC and NFPA code modifications and what it means for their businesses. Some of the systems addressed included locking arrangements, electrified hardware on fire doors, stairwell reentry, delayed egress locks, sensor-release locks and more. They reviewed the differences between special locking arrangements and normal ones, as well as the concepts of fail safe and fail secure. She also reviewed with attendees how to identify and apply code requirements for fire door assemblies and positive latching related to electrical hardware applications. ■