



*NISD established the Individual Detailer Certification (IDC) Program to evaluate an individual's detailing knowledge. This recurring feature will provide insight from detailers who have received their Individual Detailer Certification through NISD. The following interview is with David Gregor, Lance Hendrix and Patrick Chesney of Innovative Steel Detailing, Inc. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

**Q In which discipline and category are you certified (Bridge, Structural/Miscellaneous; Senior Detailer/Detailer)?**

**A** The three of us are certified in the Structural/Miscellaneous discipline as Senior Detailers Class I.

**Q How many years of detailing experience do you have?**

**A** Our experience ranges from 12 to 17 years in the detailing field in checking, detailing as well as “modeling.”

**Q Did you have to go through the AISC/NISD CD training series before taking the exam and receiving your certification?**

**A** We have each seen at least parts of the Detailer Training series, and for the past several years, all of our new hires are expected to view the material.

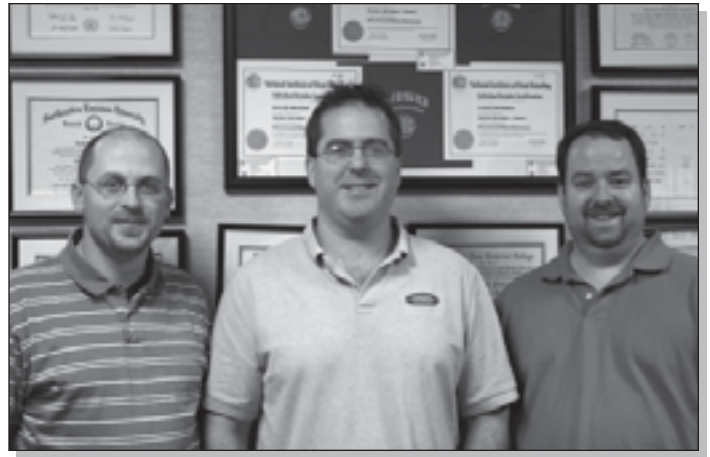
**Q Did your exam results offer an accurate assessment of your detailing knowledge?**

**A** The results were very accurate. Given the thoroughness of the test, our scores reflected our strengths and weaknesses. Even with our experience, there is always room for improvement, and the test highlighted those areas that we excelled in as well as areas that we can improve.

**Q Are there any changes, additions or deletions that you would like to have made to the exam?**

**A** One of the changes that we are looking forward to is already being worked on. The NISD is currently working on updating the study material and the test to reflect the latest edition of the AISC Manual of Steel Construction.

A second thing we would like to see is the addition of some questions about detailing in the computer era. We know this may not be practical for everyone, but the industry is definitely computer driven, and some computer knowledge is necessary for being an effective detailer.



**David Gregor, Lance Hendrix, Patrick Chesney**

**Q Would you recommend the IDC program to others? Why?**

**A** We definitely recommend the IDC program! With more and more firms using a “design/build” approach, it makes sense for detailers to demonstrate a deeper knowledge of the requirements of steel construction. A Steel Detailer should have more knowledge than the average draftsman.

**Q How has your certification helped you in your job?**

**A** As Senior Managers within our company, we were the first to go through the examination process.

Now that we have seen how thorough the exam and the study materials are, we are eagerly waiting for the updated materials to become available so we can start training more and more of our employees to take the test. We have about fifteen other employees who have all expressed an interest in taking the test so we are in the process of “rethinking” our training process to incorporate much of the materials used with the IDC program.

**Q How has your certification helped you as a detailer?**

**A** We each tend to “specialize” in certain aspects of steel detailing. This certification process has reminded us that we cannot forget how everything comes together to make a successful project.