

# Certified Dispute Resolution Facilitator (DRF)

An IPI Certification Program

## Program Objectives

The Certified Dispute Resolution Facilitator Program responds to an emerging industry demand for a collaborative resolution process as an extension of partnering. The program objectives include:

- Creating a pool of highly-qualified professionals who are skilled in facilitated dispute resolution process;
- Identifying best practices and lessons learned; and
- Establishing a culture for the collaborative dispute resolution process.

## About the DRF Certification Program

The DRF Certification Program is a combination of classroom training, industry experience and demonstrated competence as a neutral facilitator of disputes. Candidates must meet minimum application criteria and be selected for participation in the program, complete the 16-hour IPI DRF Program training and facilitate an additional five dispute resolution sessions to receive a DRF designation. The certification is valid for a period of four years and continuing education is required for recertification.

## Applicant Criteria

Our candidates include facilitators, mediators, and other trained neutrals who are skilled in collaborative resolution of disputes and are committed to improving the partnering process. The minimum criteria is as follows:

- Construction Experience – at least 5 years working in the industry.
- Conflict/Dispute Resolution Training – at least 20 days of training attended or presented (as trainer).
- Neutral Experience – at least 50 days serving as a professional neutral for project disputes or in court.
- Demonstrated Knowledge – submission of a white paper on lessons-learned or other aspect of collaborative dispute resolution.

## The Application/Selection Process

Candidates must submit an application that demonstrates compliance with the minimum criteria, write the required article/white paper for future publication by IPI, provide two letters of recommendation and pay the application fee. The IPI Board of Review will evaluate applications; interview candidates in person or by phone; and select only enough candidates to fill the available session openings, plus an alternate.

## Program Costs and Benefits

The DRF Program Certification cost is only \$6,000 (including the \$250 application fee). The DRF designation positions individuals to be a provider of choice throughout the construction industry. Candidates receive 16 hours of classroom training with an instructor to participant ratio of no more than 1:5; training manual, reference materials and IPI research papers; and one-on-one coaching/mentoring on an on-call basis for a period of six months.

## About IPI:

*Founded in 1996, the International Partnering Institute (IPI) does research on partnering concepts and techniques that develop high trust relationships and organizational cultures for successful construction projects, and provides education and certification in the best practices and lessons-learned.*

*A non-profit corporation, IPI is funded by revenue from member contributions, seminars and professional certifications. Please call or visit our website for more information on how to join and support partnering in the construction industry.*

*Our Vision is to change the construction industry . . . one project at a time.*

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