



July/August 2014

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**National Council
For Therapeutic
Recreation
Certification**

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Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

A Message from the NCTRC Chair

Sharon Nichols, CTRS/L, Chairperson
NCTRC Board of Directors

It is with tremendous pride that I write this letter to you as the new Chair of the NCTRC Board of Directors. There have been a number of accomplishments this past year which are the result of the diligent efforts of the NCTRC staff and the NCTRC Board of Directors. I am pleased to be able to highlight some of the major initiatives.

The NCTRC BOD continues to follow and update the strategic plan that was approved last year and will guide our actions and decisions through the year 2018.

ATRA and NCTRC continue to work collaboratively on the Joint Task Force for RT Licensure (JTF). This past year the Canada Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) joined with NCTRC and ATRA to expand licensure to the Canadian provinces. The JTF hosts regular calls as well as provides presentations at professional conferences throughout the US and Canada to promote and encourage licensure and professional recognition. There are approximately 10 states and provinces that are actively moving forward to achieve this mission. ATRA will be providing a link on their new website where materials and information will be available for anyone interested in getting involved in this endeavor.

NCTRC has completed Phase I of the CEU Pre-approval process. NCTRC provided CEU pre-approval for the ATRA Annual and Mid-year Conferences this year and continuing on through the coming year. NCTRC has also pre-approved professional conferences for local, state, regional, and provincial organizations. The NCTRC BOD has also approved Phase II of the process and the mechanism for pre-approving workshops and conferences sponsored by TR/RT organizations and other organizations outside of TR/RT. The pre-approval process assures that CEU programs in which certificants participate are of quality content and meet the requirements necessary to fulfill recertification as a CTRS.

It is so thrilling to report that NCTRC continues to have robust certification and recertification programs. Our numbers continue to reflect positive growth in this area. There continues to be consecutive exam administrations where the number of applicants exceeds 700. Also, NCTRC continues to retain over 90% of certificants who renew their CTRS credential. NCTRC continues to explore additional options for specialty certification. It is clear that NCTRC has a consistent and ongoing pattern that truly demonstrates that the CTRS is recognized as a valuable credential and serves as the benchmark of quality.

This past year, NCTRC piloted a Board Ambassador Program (BAP) which was initiated by past NCTRC Chair, Patricia Thomas. The purpose of this pilot program was to have an NCTRC Board member represent NCTRC as an exhibitor at a national and/or regional conference that is geared to employers, policy makers and other professionals in the healthcare marketplace. NCTRC needs to be present to market the CTRS as the qualified provider of therapeutic recreation services at these venues. Two NCTRC Board members participated in the pilot program. I exhibited at the American Society on Aging Annual Conference in March 2014 and Jennifer Hinton exhibited at the Autism Society of North Carolina in February 2014. There were very positive responses at both conferences to NCTRC marketing the CTRS as the qualified provider. The NCTRC Board voted to approve continuation of this marketing initiative for the

coming year.

As a member of the NCTRC Board of Directors for the past two years, I am honored to be involved in the many accomplishments that have helped to move the RT/TR profession forward. The completion of the new CTRS Profile Study and the Job Analysis Survey will provide us with a significant perspective on who are CTRSs and what are the elements that are important to the practice of RT/TR throughout the US and Canada. The Job Analysis serves as a very important document in guiding our standards, supporting our exam questions, and guiding our review of continuing education programs. It is also exciting to be witness to all the activity surrounding state and provincial recognition and licensure. It is so rewarding to see the ongoing growth of the number of CTRSs who meet the NCTRC standards and to watch continued growth of the CTRS credential and specialty certification at the international and national level. The NCTRC Board has also approved CEU credit for internship supervision and the standard for single-focused TR course content.

Kudos to the NCTRC staff for working through the conversion of NCTRC operations to a cloud based management system. This has greatly increased NCTRC's efficiencies and management of all business operations. NCTRC is well positioned to sustain and grow as a viable organization well into the future.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the NCTRC staff who work very hard and are truly dedicated to the mission and vision of NCTRC. They spent considerable time, energy and effort in keeping on track with our Annual Work Plan and to operationalize the NCTRC Strategic Plan through 2018. Collectively and collaboratively they successfully are able to juggle the many balls in the air that get thrown to them. They do that with the greatest of competence and grace. I am so proud and so humbled to be serving as Chair of NCTRC and oversee all of the incredible work that NCTRC does on behalf of consumers, certificants and the RT/TR profession. Beyond any doubt, NCTRC and the CTRS are brands that represent excellence in the international TR arena.

NCTRC Approves CEU credit for the Supervision of Interns

At a recent meeting, the NCTRC Board of Directors approved the award of continuing education credit for internship supervision. The new standard governing CE credit went into effect on July 1, 2014 and requires additional terms and conditions as applied to the current internship standards. The new standard allows for up to two (2) CE credit earning internship supervisory experiences per recertification cycle. Each internship supervisory experience will be awarded five (5) CE credit hours for a maximum award of 10 credit hours per recertification cycle. The application of the new standard is retroactive for up to five (5) years thus allowing CTRSs to count past internship supervision as part of their current CEU portfolio as long as all terms and conditions are met in accordance with the new standards.

For additional information please review the [Guidelines for Continuing Education for NCTRC Internship Supervision](#) and the [NCTRC Internship Supervision Continuing Education Form](#).

NCTRC Completes New Job Analysis Survey

NCTRC is pleased to announce the completion of the survey portion of the 2014 Job Analysis Study. The JA e-survey was sent to approximately 11,500 active CTRSs in an effort to identify the tasks and knowledge deemed necessary for competent professional practice. The participation period to complete the survey was open for 31 days from June 1st to July 1st and approximately 3000 CTRSs contributed to the survey. The results of the JA study will serve as the basis of the NCTRC Certification Exam and form the parameters for continuing education related to CTRS recertification. The JA study has been directed by several advisory committees made up of approximately 30 CTRS subject matter experts. The final phase of the study will include the review of the results by the Test Specification Committee and the acceptance of the final study report by the NCTRC Board of Directors. It is expected that a comprehensive report containing the specific findings and listing of the tasks and knowledge areas will be available by this December. The findings of the JA study will be incorporated into the NCTRC Certification Exam format commencing with the May 2015 exam.

NCTRC is also pleased to announce that the winner of the Apple iPad was Rebecca Ann

Tsolakides. Rebecca works as a Recreational Therapy Consultant in Chicago, IL. Thank you to all who participated in the JA study and congratulations to Rebecca!

NCTRC to Conduct Annual Certificants Meeting

NCTRC conducts its Annual Meeting for CTRSs at the annual professional conference of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). The official meeting this year will be held in Oklahoma City, OK at the 2014 Annual ATRA Conference. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel on Monday, September 15th from 3:30pm-4:30pm.

The NCTRC Annual Meeting of Certificants is a valuable opportunity for NCTRC to share information regarding current strategic initiatives and to introduce the Board of Directors, Standing Committees, and Staff. NCTRC has several exciting projects underway that we look forward to sharing with you. We hope that you will attend the meeting at ATRA or review a post of the meeting on the NCTRC website. If you are unable to attend, please contact NCTRC with any questions or suggestions you may have about the CTRS credentialing program.

Application Review and Exam Statistics

NCTRC Exam: NCTRC conducts three exam administrations within a one-year cycle. A review of the October 2013, January 2014, and the May 2014 exams indicate that a total of 1587 individuals participated in the NCTRC exam program. Provided below is a summary table that contains the number of candidates per exam administration and the corresponding pass rate of first-time examinees.

Exam Date	# Tested	Pass Rate
Oct. 2013	579	75%
Jan. 2014	336	79%
May 2014	672	78%

New Applications for Professional Eligibility: For the period March 26, 2013 to March 24, 2014, 1244 new applications were reviewed for professional eligibility. The number of candidates that met the NCTRC Professional Eligibility Standards and thus became eligible to sit for the NCTRC exam was 1084 (87.1%).

CTRS Annual Renewal: For the period November 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 9417 (87.5%) individual CTRSs renewed their certification.

Recertification Application: For the period November 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 1325 applications for recertification were received by NCTRC. A total of 96.8% of the applications were approved for recertification. Approximately 3.0% of the individuals who applied for recertification used the exam option while the majority (97.0%) used the professional experience and continuing education option.

November Recertification Exam Option

NCTRC would like to remind you that if you are coming to the end of your five year recertification cycle you can take the NCTRC exam to meet the requirements for recertification. The October 2014 exam is the only exam one can take to meet the November Recertification cycle requirements. The recertification registration deadline for the October 2014 exam is August 15, 2014. Visit the NCTRC website www.nctrc.org to access the exam registration form. From the home page, click on "exam" or use your log-in information to access the form. There are two options for submission. You can fill out the registration form online and submit it with a credit card payment or print off the registration form, fill it out, and mail it directly to NCTRC with a check or credit card number. The dates for the October 2014 exam are October 6-18, 2014.

Did you know ...

- NCTRC uses email notifications for reminders about recertification and annual maintenance applications. For an application, please contact the office.
- NCTRC has a recertification extension policy if you have experienced a life-altering

circumstance or an emergency beyond your control.

- Recertification applications may be submitted up to 1 year prior to your expiration date.

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or nctrc@nctrc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.