



May/June 2013

## Quick Links

[NCTRC Home](#)

[My NCTRC Login](#)

[NCTRC Recent News](#)

[CTRS Renewal](#)

[Standards and Publications](#)

[NCTRC Board](#)

[Contact NCTRC](#)

## National Council For Therapeutic Recreation Certification

845.639.1439

[nctrc@nctrc.org](mailto:nctrc@nctrc.org)

[www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

## Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

### A Message from the NCTRC Chair

Patricia Thomas, CTRS, Chairperson  
NCTRC Board of Directors

It is with honor I write this letter to you as the new Chair of the Board of Directors for NCTRC. There have been many exciting actions accomplished this past year through the hard work of the NCTRC staff with the leadership of the NCTRC Board of Directors. Allow me to highlight just a few major initiatives.

A new strategic plan was approved after considerable input from multiple stakeholder groups and discussion amongst the board members. This new strategic plan with nine major initiatives will guide the decisions and actions of NCTRC through the year 2018.

Recently much time and effort was devoted towards the topic of State Recognition/Licensure. An extremely successful National Forum was held in conjunction with the ATRA Annual Conference in October 2012. A CTRS representative from each state was present to collect information on state licensure. This was a noteworthy joint venture with the ATRA Licensure Task Force. This was, however, just the start of the process. ATRA and NCTRC have now finalized a Joint Task Force for RT Licensure (JTF) to continue to move this initiative forward. There are currently four states with licensure, four states/provinces with bills in progress, and about eight additional states with identified licensure committees. Additionally, Bob Riley, NCTRC Executive Director, Debbie Robinson, ATRA Board of Director and Sharon Nichols, Vice Chair, NCTRC Board of Directors just returned from a successful presentation on provincial recognition/licensure at the Canadian TR Conference (CTRA). The issue of state/provincial legal recognition has significant momentum and will continue to move forward in a conscious manner. I encourage you to contact the CTRS taking the lead in your state or province and get involved.

Another ongoing fruitful venture with ATRA has been the CEU Pre-approval process. The 2012 ATRA Annual Conference was the second annual conference to have pre-approval status. Several state and regional conferences have since obtained pre-approval status. This jointly offered service provides certificants with high caliber educational opportunities in addition to having the security of knowing the sessions attended will count towards recertification.

This past year, the number of candidates taking the CTRS exam continued to grow. There were three consecutive exam administrations where the number of candidates exceeded 700. This growth pattern is indeed an indicator that the CTRS is seen as a valuable credential and serves as the benchmark of quality.

As a member of the NCTRC Board of Directors for the past two years, I am proud to be involved in the many accomplishments that have helped to move the RT/TR profession forward. Now, as the new Chairperson, I am enthused to help direct actions towards further growth of state recognition, continued growth of the CTRS credential and specialty certification at the international and national level, expansion of the CEU Pre-approval process, implementation of a new job analysis (JA) study, and other actions that will help to promote the advancement of the profession and the CTRS credential.

Lastly, please join me in congratulating the entire staff at NCTRC. They devoted considerable time and effort to the re-accreditation application process with positive results! Effective, May

2013, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) re-accredited NCTRC for a five-year period through June 30, 2018.

Thank you for your continuous support and for being a qualified provider of RT/TR services by holding the CTRS credential.

## **NCTRC Awarded NCCA Re-Accreditation**

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies re-accredited the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) for a five-year period, expiring June 30, 2018, during its recent meeting.

Founded in 1981, NCTRC is the professional certification organization acting in the public interest by establishing and enforcing education, examination, experience and ethics requirements for recreational therapy certification. Currently, 15,000 individuals are listed on the NCTRC registry. NCTRC first received NCCA accreditation in 1993.

NCTRC received renewal of NCCA accreditation for its CTRS certification program by submitting an application demonstrating the program's compliance with the NCCA's *Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*. NCCA is the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (formerly the National Organization for Competency Assurance). Since 1977, the NCCA has been accrediting certifying programs based on the highest quality standards in professional certification to ensure the programs adhere to modern standards of practice in the certification industry.

There are 254 NCCA accredited programs that certify individuals in a wide range of professions and occupations including nurses, financial professionals, respiratory therapists, counselors, emergency technicians, crane operators and more. Of ICE's more than 330 organizational members, over 100 of them have accredited programs.

ICE's mission is to advance credentialing through education, standards, research, and advocacy to ensure competence across professions and occupations. NCCA was founded as a commission whose mission is to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs that assess professional competence. NCCA uses a peer review process to: establish accreditation standards; evaluate compliance with these standards; recognize organizations/programs which demonstrate compliance; and serve as a resource on quality certification.

ICE and NCCA are located at 2025 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036-3309; telephone 202/367-1165; facsimile 202/367-2165.

## **June 30th Deadline Looms for May Cycle Renewals**

Please be aware that the June 30th deadline is fast approaching for all CTRSs who are required to renew their CTRS credential via Annual Maintenance or Recertification. NCTRC has sent several reminder emails and postcards to alert individuals of the pending deadline. Application for either Annual Maintenance or Recertification can be completed on-line via [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org) or by postal mail postmarked on or before June 30th. Individuals are encouraged to complete the renewal process ASAP to avoid costly delays and potential loss of the CTRS credential.

## **NCTRC Specialty Certification Program**

NCTRC introduced the Specialty Certification Program in January 2010. The purpose of the Specialty Certification Program is to acknowledge the CTRS whose practice has reached an advanced professional level and to provide formal recognition of competence beyond the CTRS credential. Since its inception NCTRC has received many applications and has awarded Specialty Certification to 40 successful CTRSs. Provided below are some statistics regarding the program:

### **Path Used:**

Specialty Path A (32)

Specialty Path B (8)

**Specialty Area:**

Behavioral Health (28)

Geriatrics (8)

Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation (4)

**Representation:**

(1) from each of the following: Canada , GA, IA, IN, MD, MI, MN, NC, OR, TN

(2) from each of the following: CA, FL, MS, NE, NJ, OH, VA, WA

(3) from each of the following: AR, IL, PA

(5) from each of the following: NY

To learn more about the Specialty Certification Program, the requirements, or how to apply, visit [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org).

### **NCTRC Attends CTRA Annual Conference**

In the continuing effort to expand its international focus, NCTRC attended the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association Annual Conference. The CTRA conference was held in Montreal, Quebec, May 15-17. NCTRC sponsored an exhibit booth, presented two educational sessions, conducted a CTRS certificants meeting, as well as a pre-conference institute on provincial licensure. NCTRC and CTRA have been collaborating on an active basis to expand the CTRS credential throughout Canada. These strategic efforts have been very successful and resulted in a 100% increase in the number of CTRSs residing in Canada as measured during the past three years.

### **Did you know ...**

- NCTRC has an email contact service for the notification of CEU opportunities and research so please keep your email up-to-date with us
- NCTRC provides free marketing materials to promote the CTRS credential
- NCTRC provides pre-application review of CEU materials that have been completed for CTRS recertification

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or [nctrc@nctrc.org](mailto:nctrc@nctrc.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

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