



National Council for
Therapeutic Recreation
Certification

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July/August 2016 e-News

Posted on May 23, 2016

Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

A Message from the NCTRC Chair

Eileen Andreassi, CTRS, NCTRC Board of Directors

Happy summer! I thank you for opening the NCTRC newsletter to catch up on the many great things that are happening at the NCTRC office. It is humbling to be writing as the chair of the NCTRC board having been initially elected to the board by you, my colleagues. I remain amazed at the work being done by Anne Richard, our Executive Director, along with the entire office staff to maintain the strength and breadth of this critical function in our profession.

I'd like to bring you up to date on the many exciting things happening this year. Congratulations go out to our Executive Director, Anne Richard, and the credentialing team (Noelle Molloy, Robin McNeal and Susan Kaufer) for completing the Certificate Program for the Credentialing Specialist offered through the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). ICE is a component of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which is the organization that accredits the CTRS credential at NCTRC and has oversight for credentialing agencies.

There is good news for those who would like to do a tad less internship paperwork. You may have already heard that the Academic and Agency CTRS Supervisor Internship Verification forms are no longer required because the information is already included in other aspects of the application, renewal, and recertification processes. You are still welcome to submit the forms if you wish but they are no longer required by NCTRC as a routine component of the Academic Path application.

We have begun working with a marketing consultant to evaluate the brochures and other marketing materials, so you may see a fresh look for NCTRC in the upcoming months. As part of this project, we are also updating the content of several publications so the information is more stream-lined and user-friendly. You can also expect to see some changes on the website in mid-2017.

Another exciting initiative spearheaded by our Executive Director is the process of translating the NCTRC Certification Standards into French. This is in response to the rapid growth of the TR profession in Canada. Both English and French are spoken by many Canadians, so having the certification standards available in

French is another step in supporting the growth of our profession internationally. We are hoping to have this task completed by Spring 2017. We will be working on translating the Certification Standards into Spanish as well; we will keep you updated.

In addition to Canada, the Executive Director has been reaching out to our international colleagues in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. While they have different job titles, they are using similar TR processes. Anne is working with them to identify common ground so we are all speaking the same TR language.

The Board Ambassador Program (BAP) that was initiated several years ago is still going strong. The purpose of this program is to educate employers and hiring authorities about the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and encourage them to hire a CTRS as the most qualified provider of TR services. Board members attended 3 non-TR conferences this year in different parts of the country. We have been well-received at each venue and look forward to continuing with this credential marketing effort.

You will notice a new voice when you call the NCTRC office. We have hired a new part-time receptionist to help handle the increased volume of calls, but if you do get the voice mail, please leave a message as the office staff does return calls very quickly.

Please join me in thanking Anne and the office staff for the exemplary work they have done in the first half of 2016 and wishing them well as they continue to work on achieving the goals of our strategic plan for the remainder of the year. I wish you all an outstanding summer season of TR programs, clinical treatments, internship supervision and community fun for everyone.

NCTRC Attends CTRA Annual Conference

In the continuing effort to nurture its international focus, NCTRC attended the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association Annual Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, June 1-3, 2016. NCTRC sponsored an exhibit booth, presented two educational sessions, co-presented the endnote for the conference, and conducted a CTRS certificants meeting. NCTRC and CTRA continue to collaborate 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. There are now 566 CTRSs residing in Canada.

NCTRC Board Ambassador Program Update

The Board Ambassador Program (BAP) was created by the NCTRC Board of Directors in 2014. The purpose of this program is to encourage Board members to attend conferences/workshops outside of the TR field to market the CTRS credential and promote the profession.

Donna Gregory and Carla Carmichael represented NCTRC as exhibitors at the 2016 Aging in America conference, the annual conference of the American Society on Aging.

[The Aging in America Conference](#) is the largest gathering of a diverse, multidisciplinary community of professionals from the fields of aging, healthcare and education, along with business leaders from across the United States. Thousands of professionals from healthcare, long-term care, social services, educational and

research institutions, business and government converge to learn about cutting-edge topics, network and share resources.

The conference was held March 20 -24, 2016 in Washington D.C. Over 3,000 attendees from across the nation and abroad attended the annual Aging in America Conference to learn, network and participate in the largest multidisciplinary conference covering issues of aging and quality of life for older adults.

Our presence was well received. We were able to provide educational materials and network with a variety of professionals in the field of aging. It was a great opportunity to share how Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists are instrumental in all areas of programming/service for the aging population.

The 2017 Aging in America Conference will be in Chicago, IL. They are accepting presentation proposals. What a great opportunity to share the amazing difference Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists are making with this population. The link to submit a proposal is: <http://www.asaging.org/education>.

Donna and Carla chat with a conference attendee



CTRSs in the News

<http://www.parentingnh.com/May-2016/Adaptive-recreation-programs-and-summer-camps/>.

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 Chicago, IL at the 2016 Annual ATRA Conference. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center Hotel on Sunday, September 11 from 12:00-1:00pm.

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 has begun conducting six exam administrations beginning with the July 2015 exam. A review of the July 2015, September 2015, November 2015, January 2016, March 2016 and May 2016 exams indicated that a total of 1689 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
July 2015	253	89%
September 2015	307	88%
November 2015	278	85%
January 2016	257	86%
March 2016	154	91%
May 2016	440	89%

New Applications for Professional Eligibility: For the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, 1543 new applications were reviewed for professional eligibility. The total number of candidates that met the NCTRC Professional Eligibility Standards and thus became eligible to sit for the NCTRC exam was 1476 (95.7%).

CTRS Annual Renewal: For the period November 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, 8441 (85%) individual CTRSs renewed their certification.

Recertification Application: For the period November 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, 2047 applications for recertification were received by NCTRC. A total of 96.8% of the applications were approved for recertification. Approximately 2.0% of the individuals who applied for recertification used the exam option while the majority (98.0%) 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 November 2016 exam is the only exam one can take to meet the December Recertification cycle requirements. The recertification registration deadline for the November 2016 exam is September 15, 2016. Visit the [NCTRC website](#) to access the exam registration 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, money order or credit card number. The dates for the November 2016 exam are November 7-19, 2016.

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

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

CONTACT US

845-639-1439

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ACCREDITATION

LINKS

American Therapeutic Recreation
Association



NCTRC is a member of the
Institute for Credentialing
Excellence (ICE) and the
CTRS Credentialing

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FORMS

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Canadian Therapeutic Recreation
Association

Institute for Credentialing Excellence

Therapeutic Recreation Directory

US Dept. of Labor, Occupational Outlook
Handbook

Recreation Therapy Licensure Boards:

New Hampshire

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Utah

Program is accredited by
National Commission for
Certifying Agencies
(NCCA).

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