

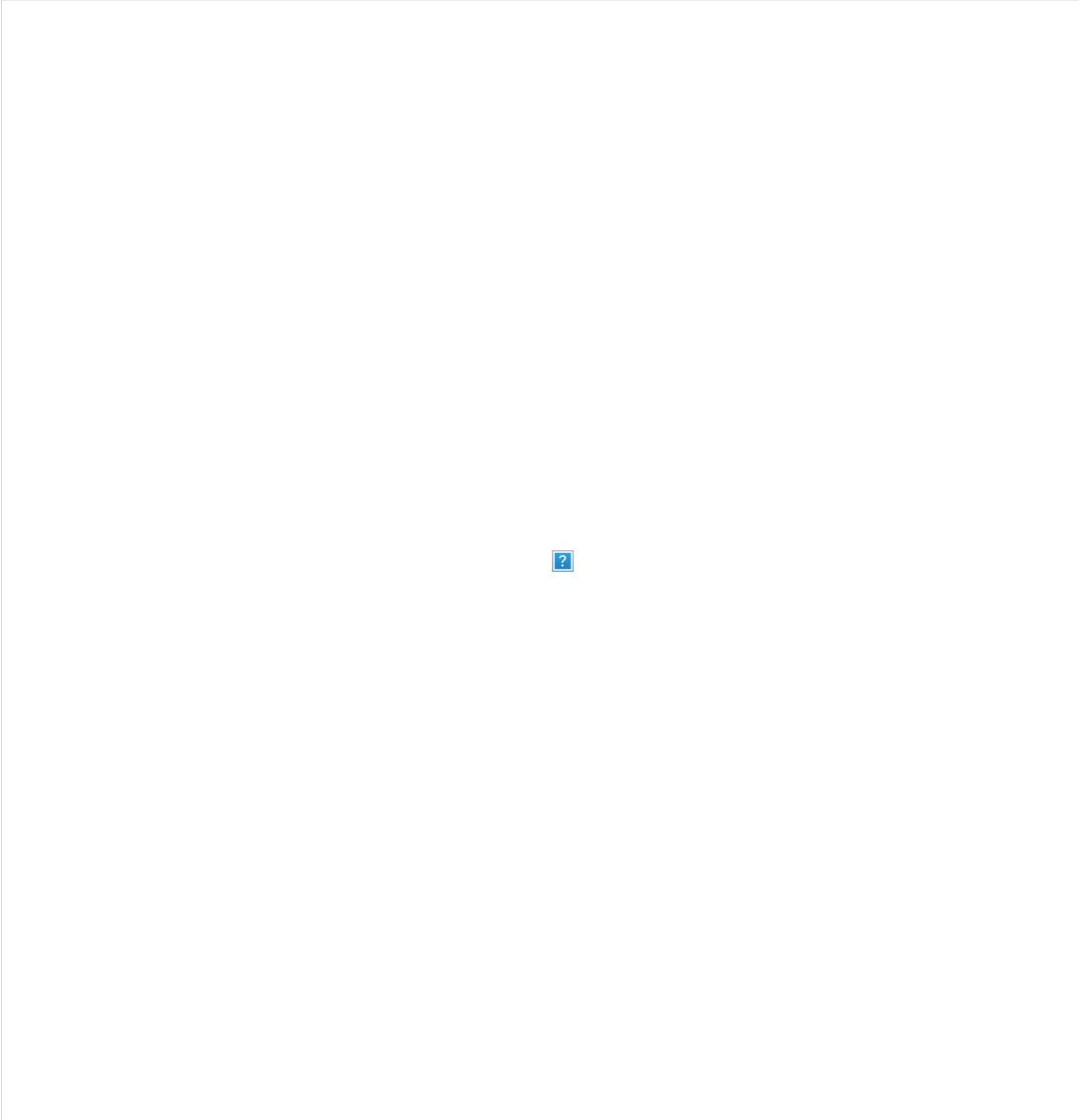
April 2026 Newsletter

From: info@nccap.org <nccap@memberclicks-mail.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 12:25 am

To: bryan.rife@nccap.org

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At NCCAP, we remain committed to advancing excellence in aging services through education, certification, and advocacy. Each month, we celebrate the professionals, organizations, and innovations that strengthen person-cente care and improve quality of life for older adults and vulnerable populations.

In this edition, we are highlighting professional development opportunities, organizational updates, and ways our community continues to lead with compassion, creativity, and purpose.

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**Message from NCCAP Leadership**

Exciting things are happening at NCCAP!

As we continue to grow and evolve, I am pleased to share that we have several new initiatives underway designed to better support you and advance our profession. You may have already noticed the fresh new look to this month's edition of the NCCAP newsletter—just one of the ways we're working to keep you informed, engaged, and inspired.

We're also introducing a new certification pathway, entitled State Bridge Transition Pathway to Activity Director Certification, creating more opportunities for professional growth and career advancement within our field. Check out the video in this newsletter which explains this new certification option.

I'd love the chance to connect with you in person—be sure to see me at the NAAP Conference! This annual event provides an excellent opportunity to network with peers from across the country and around the world while gaining valuable insights and learning new techniques within our profession.

As the needs of older adults continue to evolve, NCCAP remains focused on equipping professionals with the tools, knowledge, and credentials needed to make a lasting impact.

We are proud of the dedication shown across the care continuum and grateful for the work being done every day to support dignity, engagement, and quality of life.

Each month we will list the top 5 states with the most NCCAP certificate professionals. Please join us in recognizing these states!

**Top 5 states with NCCAP Certified Professionals**

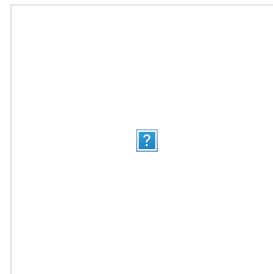
- OH- 835
- FL- 755
- PA- 687
- NJ- 631
- TX- 601

Thank you for your continued dedication and for being an essential part of the NCCAP community. The future is bright and we're building it together.

Debbie Hommel, ACC/MC/EDU, CTRS  
NCCAP President

**Let's Celebrate**

**Happy Birthday Ima!**



If you've ever called NCCAP, you've likely spoken with Ima!

Please join us in wishing Ima a very happy birthday! As the first point of contact for many of our professionals, Ima is often the friendly voice and helpful support they connect with first.

We are so grateful for all that she does for NCCAP each day. Wishing you a wonderful birthday and year ahead!

**From The Desk of Dawn Worsley, LNHA, ACC**

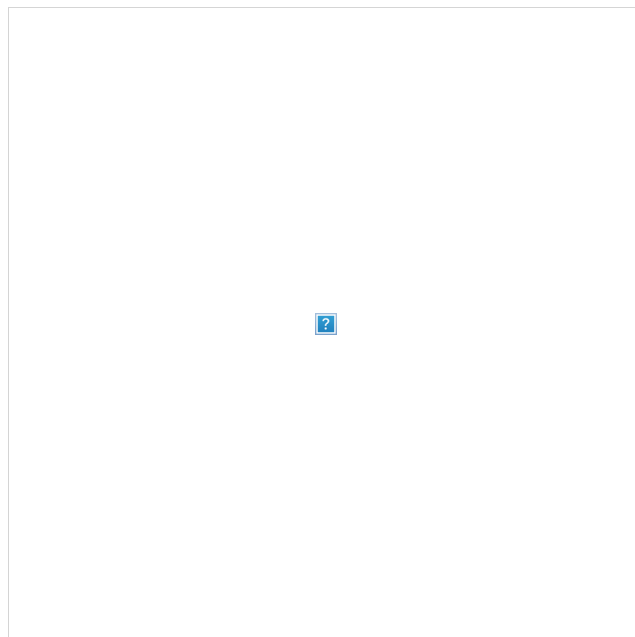


**CMS-Defined Roles in Supporting Resident Activity Programs, Quality of Life, and Resident Rights**

Under CMS regulations for skilled nursing facilities (42 CFR §483), both the Nursing Home Administrator (NHA) and Director of Nursing (DON) have defined responsibilities for ensuring resident quality of life, protection of resident rights and access to meaningful activity programs. While the Director of Activities leads the design and implementation of activity services, CMS expects close coordination among all three roles.

[Read Full Article](#)

**Certified Professional Spotlight**



**Sandra Goldring, ACC/Edu, AC-BC/Edu**

She was selected as one of 125 women—chosen from more than 12,000 entries nationwide—as a Remarkable Woman of 2026 in recognition of her impact on her community and beyond. The honor was awarded by NewsNation, NextStep Media, and the CW Network. As part of this recognition, she attended an all-expenses-paid trip to Nashville, culminating in a star-studded awards event that aired nationally on the CW Network. The three-day experience was nothing short of extraordinary and remains one of the most memorable moments of her life.

This national acknowledgment of her work in the healthcare field—particularly her contributions through consultation and training focused on improving quality of life for those served. Coverage of the recognition, including her interview available across social media platforms, along with a YouTube podcast featuring her national news interview.

She is also one of the original MEPAP instructors and has spent approximately 20 years as a self-employed Independent Activity Consultant, alongside a 30-year career in the healthcare industry.

She shares this as a reflection of the positive impact her efforts have had on so many. Her work continues to be a true passion—one rooted in sowing seeds, fostering growth, and supporting the ongoing development of both students and clients.

Want to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Share your success story, team achievement, or program innovation.

with us. Submissions are due by the 25th of each month to be considered.

Contact

**Resources for Activity Professionals and Care Providers**

This section highlights practical tools, creative ideas, and trusted supports designed to help activity professionals and care providers deliver meaningful, person-centered engagement.

From evidence-based programming guides and adaptable activity plans to training opportunities and wellness resources, you'll find content that enhances both resident outcomes and staff confidence.

Whether you're looking for fresh inspiration, regulatory guidance, or ways to prevent burnout, these curated resources are here to support your success and elevate the quality of care you provide every day.

Here are a few focus areas for this month:

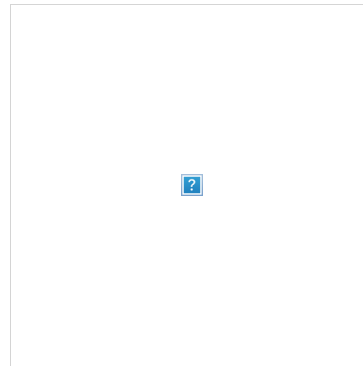
Access Meaningful Engagement Ideas for Diverse Resident Populations in Healthcare

Access Documentation Tips for Activity Professionals in Healthcare

Access Staff Development Strategies in Healthcare

Access Person-Centered Care Planning Support for Residents in Healthcare

**NAAP Events & Webinars**

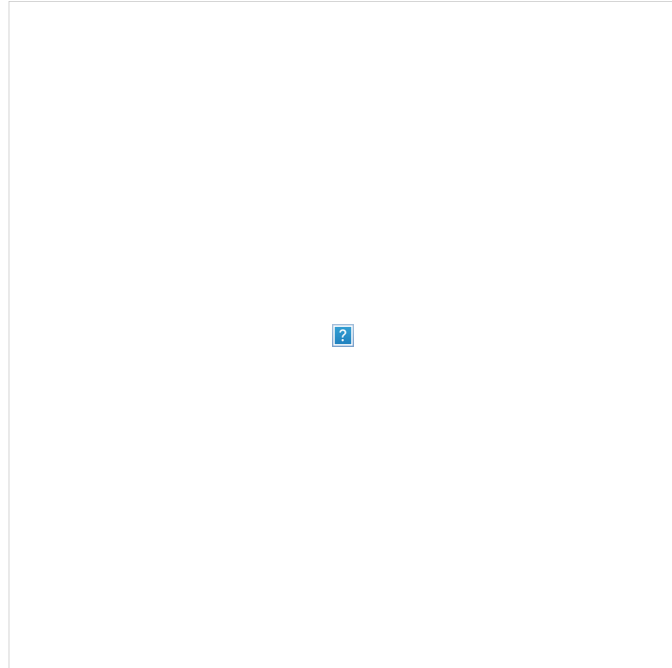


**NAAP provides LIVE webinars that you can receive CE credit for your certification renewal with NCCAP!**

Also, all Webinars will be available on-demand for all NAAP members. You can view past education sessions directly from our website by accessing the "HUB Resource" area of the website. You will need to log in as a NAAP member.

A reminder to all Webinar viewers: You will only receive a CEU document if you are registered with your name and email for the live webinar. Only members will be able to view later. If you are logged in to someone else's computer, don't use their correct name or email, we cannot guarantee a certificate being sent to you.

[Learn More](#)



**Experience the Energy of NAAP 2026 in Chicago – Where Activity Professionals Thrive!**

Mark your calendar for April 27–29, 2026, and join us at the Sheraton Suites Chicago O’Hare for NAAP’s highly anticipated Annual Conference.

This vibrant three-day event offers cutting-edge workshops, inspiring keynotes, peer networking, NCTRC and NCC/ approved CE hours.

Immerse yourself in hands-on learning, enjoy themed celebrations, and connect with fellow professionals who share your commitment to enriching lives through engagement. Be part of the movement shaping the future of resident-centered care!

Conference Information

**Certification Courses**

**Assisted Living Enrichment Certification (ALEC)**

The National Assisted Living Enrichment Certification Course is designed to equip life enrichment professionals with knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the assisted living industry.

This comprehensive program covers essential topics such as regulatory requirements, resident care, safety protocols and best practices in providing person-centered support. Participants will gain insight into the operational, ethical, and legal aspects of assisted living communities, ensuring they are well-prepared to enhance the quality of life for residents.

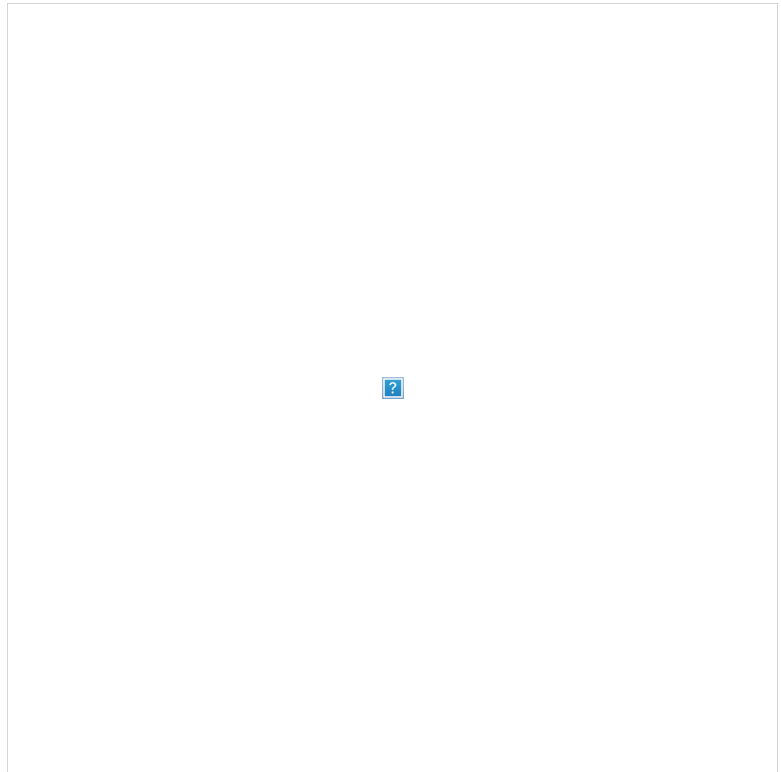
Whether you are entering the field or advancing your career, this certification serves as a valuable credential in the evolving landscape of senior care.

ALEC Information

**New Track! State Bridge, The Professional Transition Pathway to ADC**

Professional Transition Pathway

**Select Your Path To Certification! Your Destiny Awaits!**



[Take Me To NCCAP.ORG](http://NCCAP.ORG)

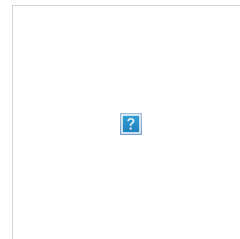
**Special Projects**

The NCCAP Special Projects Committee is a strategic, action-oriented group dedicated to advancing innovative initiatives that support NCCAP’s mission, growth, and impact. This committee focuses on developing, testing, and implementing projects that fall outside the scope of standing committees but are critical to addressing emerging needs, opportunities, and priorities within the organization and the activity profession.

The committee collaborates with NCCAP leadership, partners, and stakeholders to design and execute time-bound exploratory initiatives—such as pilot programs, new service offerings, partnerships, research efforts, or special events. It serves as an incubator for ideas, helping to evaluate feasibility, measure outcomes, and recommend scalable solutions that enhance member value and organizational effectiveness.

Through creativity, adaptability, and cross-functional collaboration, the Special Projects Committee plays a key role in driving innovation, responding to industry trends, and positioning NCCAP for continued leadership in the field.

Over the next several months, NCCAP will be introducing the committee members.



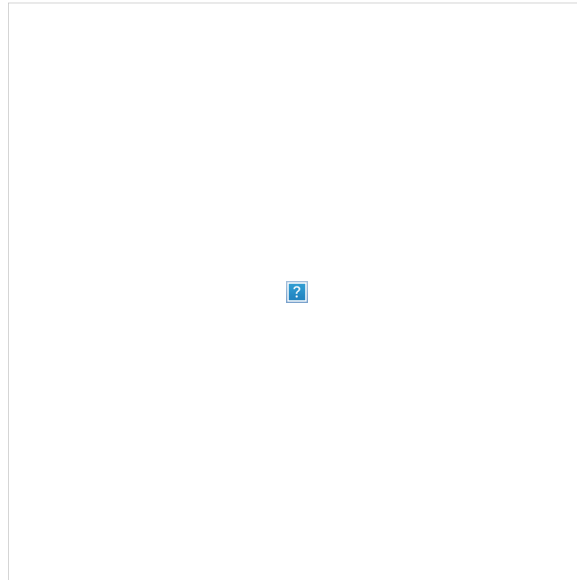
**Committee Member  
Dr. Michelle Olson, PhD, ACC**

Dr. Michelle Olson, PhD, ACC, is a pro-aging advocate, artist, art therapist, and social gerontologist with nearly 30 years of experience across all levels of elder care. Currently serving as the Culture Change Catalyst at Bethel Community Center in New York, she applies her deep expertise to transform how we perceive and support people living with and without dementia.

dementia. Michelle's career has spanned the full professional spectrum, from consultant, care manager, community director, to executive leadership as a Corporate and Executive Director.

Driven by the commitment that creative expression and being in nature are fundamental human rights, Dr. Olson founded Evergreen Minds, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to destigmatizing dementia. Through nature-based programs and expressive arts, she combats social segregation and fosters intergenerational connections across the Hudson Valley and NYC, including a partnership with Vassar College.

A seasoned educator, Michelle has taught gerontology at Montana State and Concordia Universities and remains active with Vassar's Lifelong Learning Institute. Her clinical approach is informed by certifications as a Certified Activity Consultant in Memory Care, Montessori Dementia Care Professional, and a Nature and Forest Therapy Guide. By reframing dementia care as a social and environmental justice issue, Dr. Olson remains a dedicated advocate for the dignity of individuals across all cognitive abilities.



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This email was sent to [bryan.rfb@nccap.org](mailto:bryan.rfb@nccap.org) by [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org)

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