

**In This Issue...**

- From the CEO
- National Exam Update
- Pioneer Network has a new Podcast!
- Celebrate American Heart Month
- Engagement Certifications
- NCCAP Certification
- How to Renew Your NCCAP Certification
- Support Our Professional Association

**From the CEO:**



Our world is in the midst of a frenzy of COVID vaccinations. We hope that each of you who desires to receive a vaccination has been able to obtain this medical intervention intended to help ensure your safety and health.

At the same time, we've seen many commercials and public service announcements highlighting the important role of nurses and doctors during the pandemic. Sadly, there is an unfortunate lack of attention on the essential role played by Activity Professionals in the delivery of the Social Model of Care. We know each of you are part of the integrated care team, and acknowledge the important role you perform across the long-term care sector.

At NCCAP, we remain committed to ensuring all Activity Professionals obtain the highest level of knowledge and skills that allows those we serve to stay well and age well. We also remain certain that you are all heroes in caring for our aging population!

With appreciation for your service, we thank each and every one of you!

With sincere best wishes,

Peter Illig, NCCAP CEO

**National Exam Update**

With Microsoft ending support of the Windows 7 operating system, Prometric will no longer support its use within our ProProctor remote assessment platform. Test-takers will now be required to use Windows 8 operating system or a more recent version. To make sure test takers are informed of this change, we have updated our candidate-facing materials and communications to reflect the new system requirements, including:

- The **ProProctor user guide**, which provides step-by-step instructions for candidates to make sure they meet all system requirements; and



The **ProProctor Candidate FAQ** page on Prometric.com.

If you have any questions regarding the national exam, feel free to email [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org)

**Pioneer Network has a new podcast!**

Pioneer Network is pleased to be launching an all-new educational program, "Listen, Learn, Explore." This wonderful new educational innovation pairs a recorded audio podcast with a virtual variation of a learning circle.

Starting with a podcast, listeners will have an opportunity to hear unique insights on a variety of topics from thought leaders in the field of resident-directed care.

Following the podcast, Pioneer Network invites listeners to register for an interactive program where they will have the opportunity to join others in a deeper, live conversation with the podcast guest speaker. Check out the first episode, "Did You Know?" at <https://www.pionernetwork.net/podcast/>.



self-care  
is not selfish

When we take care of **#OurHearts** as part of our self-care routines, we reduce our risk of heart disease and set an example for those around us to do the same.



Each February, NHLBI and The Heart Truth® celebrate **American Heart Month** by motivating Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent heart disease. Focusing on your heart health has never been more important. People with poor cardiovascular health are also at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. **President Biden's Proclamation**[external link](#) on Heart Month 2021 addresses heart disease as a leading cause of death in the U.S. and the ongoing fight to protect #OurHearts.

Research shows that we're more successful at meeting personal health goals when we join forces with others. When we take care of **#OurHearts** as part of our self-care, we set an example for those around us to do the same. Inspire and motivate yourself and those you love to **make heart health a regular part of your self-care routine**.

### Engagement Certifications



NCCAP's **Memory Care Validation Certification Course** is now available! Enroll now by going to <https://www.nccapacademy.org/memorycarevalidation>

There are also several classes scheduled for the **Montessori Home Engagement Course** starting on Feb. 16, 2021. Get more information at <https://www.nccapacademy.org/montessorihomeengagement>

Go to the new Facebook page "**Engagement Powered by NCCAP**" and check out the latest news regarding our courses for Engagement at <https://www.facebook.com/nccapengagement>

### NCCAP CERTIFICATION

In 1986 the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) created NCCAP as the official credential of the Activity Profession. Based on CMS F658, NAAP establishes Professional Standards of Practice and requiring the Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals (MEPAP) for NCCAP Certification. For over 30 years, NCCAP Certification has been the Gold Standard for life-enriching activities. NCCAP is the only certification that meets the credentialing standards of ICE and NCCA.



NCCAP offers the following Professional Certifications to meet Federal and State requirements:

#### 1. ACTIVITY PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICE CERTIFIED (APAC)

APAC is the entry-level to work in the activities and life enrichment field. MEPAP 1-APC is required and no work experience is needed. When the required experience hours are obtained, APAC converts to APC at no charge. APAC is valid for 6 years and must be renewed every 2 years with 20 CE hours.

#### 2. ACTIVITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED (APC)

APC ensures individuals meet NCCAP standards have the knowledge and experience to work in long-term care and enhance quality of life through activities and engagement. The required curriculum is MEPAP-1 APC and must be renewed every 2 years with 20 CE hours.

#### 3. ACTIVITY DIRECTOR CERTIFIED (ADC)

ADC is the NCCAP standard that ensures the competency to lead and direct an activities and life enrichment team and program. ADC requirements vary depending on education and work experience. The required curriculum is both MEPAP 1-APC and MEPAP 2-ADC, and an independently-administered National Exam. ADC must be renewed every 2 years with 30 CE hours.

#### 4. PROFESSIONAL EQUIVALENCY AND EXPERIENTIAL TRACK FOR ADC

NCCAP offers a path to ADC for Allied Professionals who possess current AT-BC, MT-BC, COTA, CTRS, or OTR and is awarded based on passing the National Exam. Additionally, individuals with at least 10 years of experience in Activities and with at least 5 years currently in a management role can apply for ADC our Experiential Track that requires essay writing and the National Exam.

#### 5. ACTIVITY CONSULTANT CERTIFIED (ACC)

Individuals who possess current ADC or related experience may obtain ACC to meet NCCAP standards to provide consulting services to an activity program, staff or department. ACC requirements vary depending on education, work experience, and passing the National Exam. ACC must be renewed every 2 years with 40 CE hours.

#### 6. ENGAGEMENT CERTIFICATIONS

NCCAP offers a variety of shorter curriculums for certification in specific age-related settings and diagnoses:

- Person-Centered Engagement (PCE)
- Memory Care Validation® (MCV)
- Montessori Dementia Engagement (MDE)
- Montessori Home Engagement (MHE)
- Adult Day Engagement (ADE) – *coming soon*
- Assisted Living Engagement (ALE) – *coming soon*

---

### How to Renew Your NCCAP Certification



Want to learn more about how to renew? Check out the '**How to Renew Your Certification**' Video.

It's important to make sure that your correct email is on file so that you receive an email link beginning 4 months before your certification expiration date. If you don't receive this email,

please contact the NCCAP office to update your email. You will then be able to renew through the link sent to you from NCCAP via email.

### NCCAP is now following an audit process for continuing education.

You will not need to upload your certificates of proof of continuing education clock hours to your online profile on the NCCAP website or mail to the office. If you are chosen for an audit, you will be sent an email within days of your renewal submission and at that time you will be instructed on how to send in your certificates.

When your application for re-certification has been reviewed and approved you will receive your NCCAP certificate as a PDF via email. Contact the office if you wish to have a hard copy of your certificate for a nominal fee at [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org)

---

### Support Our Professional Association...

NAAP provides education, resources, and a voice in unison with NCCAP! NAAP membership is \$75 USD/year. Membership runs from the anniversary date for one year. Check out the membership form [here](#).