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## **From the CEO:**



I'm pleased to share that NCCAP's national Town Hall meeting for Activities and Life-Enrichment staff this month was a success! We were contacted by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an implementing partner in Project ECHO which stands for "Extension for Community Care Outcomes." This is a nationwide initiative at the University of New Mexico funded by CMS to support the nursing home sector.

We all know that nursing homes were drastically impacted by the COVID pandemic. As all Activity Professionals know, and as many experienced firsthand, the official response to the pandemic focused on medical and clinical care. At the same time, the mandate to provide activities never stopped. The need to provide programs for physical, cognitive, and

psychosocial well-being always remained.

Over the past year, both NCCAP and NAAP made formal demands that Activity Professionals be recognized as "essential" members of the workforce. The fact that Project ECHO received numerous inquiries from Activities and Life-Enrichment Professionals helps put the spotlight on the essential work Activity Professionals perform as part of the integrated care team.

As always, we thank you for your selfless service. And, we believe it is essential that each and every Activity Professional take care of their own physical, cognitive and psychosocial well-being.

Warm Regards,

Peter Illig, NCCAP CEO

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## **NCCAP Board Election News**

The NCCAP Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Linda Redhead, MS, ACC, EDU has been elected by the Nominating Committee to serve a 3-year term as Vice President.



Linda Redhead graduated from the 'School of Visual Arts' with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration and Art Therapy. She is also a 'College of New Rochelle' graduate with a Master's Degree in Art Therapy.

Linda has worked with many different populations but eventually found her passion working with the elderly. She became an NCCAP Certified Activity Consultant with a Specialization in Education and has over 33 years of experience in long-term care. She is owner of Activity

Advisor, a consulting organization in New York.

As an Instructor for the 'Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals', she was awarded the Mepap Instructor of the Year for 2013. For many years she has volunteered for the 'National Certification Council for Activity Professionals'. She is a Licensed Engagement Instructor for NCCAP and is teaching the Montessori Home Engagement Course.

Linda has been serving as the Chairperson of the Special Projects Committee and is responsible for NCCAP's monthly newsletter along with the design and production of communication materials and videos.

We look forward to Linda serving in the position of Vice President and thank her for her many contributions to date.

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## First Experiential Track Certification!

Hello Everyone! I am so excited to introduce myself and tell you how I got involved in the activity profession!

My name is Jenny Juhasz. I am the Activity Coordinator for Assisted Living at Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community in Charleston, South Carolina. I have been serving my wonderful residents for 14 years and enjoy every minute of my job. I was born and raised in Charleston, SC. I graduated from the College of Charleston with a BS in Sociology and a minor in Environmental Studies. I reached a life goal of mine in 2010 when I completed my Master's degree in Gerontology from Capella University. I have a beautiful, kind, and smart little girl, Julianna. In my free time, I enjoy reading, needlepoint, and being outside communing with nature



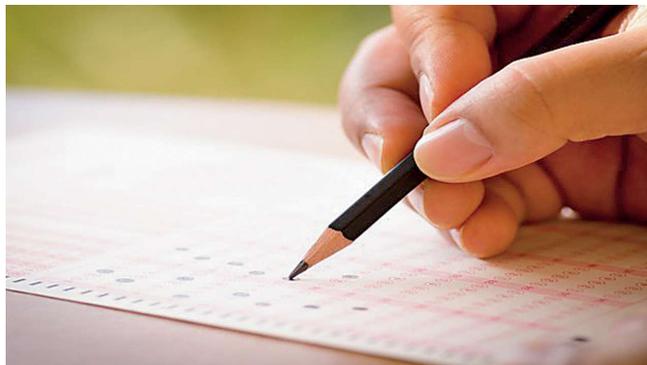
During my senior year at the College of Charleston, I completed an amazing internship in the memory care neighborhood at Bishop Gadsden. I knew right away I wanted to work with older adults. It wasn't long after graduating that I accepted a job in the activity department at Bishop Gadsden, and I have been here ever since. I have learned so much along the journey and made many incredible and unforgettable memories.

Earlier this year, I reached out to NCCAP about becoming Activity Director Certified. This is a certification I have wanted to earn for many, many years. I was fortunate to be able to undertake the new Experiential Track offered through NCCAP for certification. With the support of my team at work, my family, and the incredible staff at NCCAP, I became the first person to successfully complete the Experiential Track and earn my Activity Director Certified status. I am beyond excited!

I challenge anyone who is thinking about becoming certified through NCCAP to take a leap and go for it! I know you can do it and the excitement you will feel when you accomplish your goal will be wonderful!

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## Important Information on Remote Proctoring for the National Exam



Remote Proctoring remains a popular option for taking the National ADC Exam.

All exam candidates receive a detailed “Do's and Don'ts” list with important details on how to successfully take the remote exam. Candidates also receive detailed instructions from

the test company Prometric that must be followed when taking the exam remotely.

If any of the required conditions for remote testing are not met, the exam cannot be completed. When this happens, the testing company charges you to reschedule and you must pay another test fee.

### REMEMBER:

- Do not take the exam at work!
- Even if you use your personal computer, your Internet at work has security features that don't work with the testing company system.
- Your work has firewalls and security features that prevent the exam from being taken regardless of what computer you use.
- Even if you seek support from your technical department at work, the testing company system will still not work.
- If you still try to take the exam at work, have technical difficulties, and seek support from the testing company, these technical difficulties will not be resolved.

### **Again, do not take the exam at work!**

All Prometric testing centers are now open. Consider taking the National ADC Exam at a testing center to minimize the challenges of the remote exam. Please contact us with any questions: [info@nccap.org](mailto:info@nccap.org).

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## NAAP Diversity Advancement Scholarship



NAAP is committed to speaking out and taking action against systemic racism and the unjust barriers faced by People of Color seeking to enhance their professional development in the field of Activity Services. NAAP recognizes and honors differences and they are working diligently and compassionately to listen, learn and promote inclusion.

The NAAP Diversity Advancement Scholarship is designed to create interest and awareness of the field of Therapeutic Activity Services with people of color and other minorities by providing financial support for education in activity services, therapeutic recreation, geriatrics, and other related fields.

Applicants must be members of racial/ethnic groups that have been designated as qualifying groups which are provided in the detailed scholarship information.

Open enrollment is offered twice per year: January 1st- January 31st and June 1st- June 30th.

Scholarships range from \$100.00 to \$1000.00 for specific courses that will assist the professional with enhancing their career.

Apply at <https://naap.info/scholarships/>

*\*Consider donating to the NAAP Diversity Advancement Scholarship Fund today.*

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## Pioneer Network's "Listen, Learn, Explore"



Pioneer Network has launched a 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. We welcome you to join us [here](#).

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## 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**. 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>

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## **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 CERTIFIED (APC)**

APC ensures individuals who 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.

## 2. 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.

## 3. 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.

## 4. 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.

## 5. ENGAGEMENT CERTIFICATIONS

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

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

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## 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)

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### **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](#).