

NCC AP Welcomes Its New Testing Company

By Kathryn Benson, LADC, NCAC II, QCS, NCC AP Chairperson

The NAADAC/National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), in servicing our substance use disorder professionals and our many professional credentialing boards, requires a mature, robust, flexible secure technology to manage our ever-evolving cutting-edge programs. As the addiction profession evolves and becomes ever more specialized, everyone, from government entities to the public, is demanding accountability of our national and international substance use disorder professionals. More and more national and international certification boards are turning to NCC AP to help them manage their certification programs and ensure that practitioners have the skills and required knowledge to practice in the addiction profession.

NCC AP, following 18 months of selection criteria-based assessment interviews, is proud to announce that we are now in partnership with Kryterion, a well-established, innovative international testing company. With its principal offices located in Phoenix, AZ, Kryterion offers an array of services that meet the need of the NCC AP, our test candidates, and our state boards.

Offering test development services along with a variety of test delivery options, Kryterion also provides additional features for the benefit of our professionals including:

- On-demand Testing
- Lower Test pricing
- Additional technology of systems that includes immediate test results
- Direct access to data for the NCC AP for knowledge, best practices testing enhancement, and NAADAC's work with workforce development initiatives
- Testing at colleges and universities as part of the educational component of degree programs
- Testing at special venues, such as the NAADAC Annual Conference or other State Conferences. Test preparation workshops may be taught the day before testing to allow for greater support in the testing process.

This new partnership allows you, our valued customers, to have closer and easier access to the NCC AP staff, and to the information you may choose to relay to your constituents. The developing changes in the application process, fee collection, and test availability will provide test candidates a value-added product.

Kryterion uses the latest technology and security to develop, deliver, and manage NCC AP's testing programs while providing the test taker on-demand access to the exam process along with their immediate test results.

NCC AP supports the intent of credentialing to standardize the quality of substance use disorders prevention, intervention, treatment, continuing care, and recovery support services. Through our standardized testing, the Commission is able to set and maintain a benchmark for professionals to demonstrate knowledge and competence while providing ongoing resources for those who treat substance use disorders. It is, and always has been, our commitment to continue to improve and enhance the quality

of the test question item bank and testing process. It is in this effort to meet the needs of our maturing profession that we are so proud to be collaborating with Kryterion.

In NCC AP's commitment to be and maintain our connection to the profession and to those who are using the credential on a day-to-day basis, all of our tests are evaluated annually to ensure they address the latest information on treating addictive disorders.

The NCC AP Commissioners and our every-growing pool of expert advisors look forward to having new online test development tools including best practices methodologies available to us. This new system will allow us to more quickly and cost effectively develop, regularly review, and therefore continue to deliver high-quality evidence-based certification testing products and processes.

Our partnership with Kryterion also gives us more ways to assist our substance use disorders professionals in their pursuit of national and international credentialing by allowing the NCC AP staff to more assist with specific customer services issues that may arise in a more efficient manner.

As NCC AP Chair, I am fully committed to enhancing the recognition and acceptance of NCC AP national credentials for third party reimbursement by our efforts to: (1) provide a formal indicator of the professionals' current knowledge and competence; (2) renewal-mandated continuation of learning to ensure professionals are using the most current best practices; (3) assist in establishing, measuring, and monitoring the ever changing requirements for the profession; and (4) provide assistance to employers, health care providers, educators, government entities, labor unions, other practitioners, and the public in the identification of quality counselors who have met the national competency standards.

Another step of streamlining NCC AP's quality testing system requires, as of July 1, 2015, that all candidates seeking to test with an NCC AP exam product must *first* submit a completed application directly to NCC AP in order to be pre-approved for testing. Once approved, the individual will be directed to Kryterion for testing. This procedural change will better ensure that all candidates will be formally in our NCC AP system, allowing us to be of assistance throughout their entire testing experience.

We thank you for your trust in us, our test products, and our testing process and appreciate your continued use of our services. We encourage you to review our website at www.naadac.org/nccap for more information and contact NCC AP at nccap@naadac.org with all questions.

NCC AP is grateful to be here to serve you!

Wishing all a Joyful Holiday and a Very Peaceful New Year!



Kathryn Benson, NCAC II, LADC, QSAP, QSC, serves as Chair of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), and has worked in the counseling profession since 1972, specializing in addiction issues since 1978. She may be contacted at lightbeing@aol.com with your thoughts or questions.