



NEWS RELEASE

For information, contact:
Jennifer Wagley
Office: 630-652-0483
jwagley@ncbtmb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCBTMB PROGRAMS RECEIVE ACCREDITATION BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGENCIES

National Certification Programs Meet NCCA's Stringent Standards

OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois (June 8, 2009) – The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) announced today that the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) has accredited the second of its certification exam programs, making NCBTMB the profession's only organization to receive such verification for its two examination programs.

NCBTMB's certification program for therapeutic massage and bodywork (NCETMB) covers both Eastern and Western modalities and was first awarded NCCA accreditation in 1993. Introduced in 2005, the certification program for Western modalities (NCETM) now shares this nationally recognized mark of distinction.

The prestigious accreditation is earned by undergoing a rigorous peer-review process and demonstrating that its certification programs meet all of the quality standards established by NCCA, which serves to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the public. These standards encompass five core elements that are evaluated to assure professional competency – and serve as benchmarks in the certification industry:

- Purpose, governance and resources
- Responsibilities to stakeholders
- Assessment instruments
- Recertification
- Maintaining accreditation

“Achieving NCCA accreditation validates everything NCBTMB does – our exams, our processes and our principles,” said Chair Neal Delaporta. “It helps further our mission of advancing the profession and lending credibility to the field by demonstrating the highest national standards for certification. It speaks to our commitment of protecting the public and puts board certified practitioners on par with other respected healthcare providers requiring certification.”

NCBTMB's NCCA-accredited programs feature the only two exams utilized for both massage certification and licensure purposes in the United States. Accreditation is granted for a five-year period, through March 31, 2014.

“NCCA accreditation is a testament to the quality and strength of NCBTMB's programs and the critical role they play not only in national certification, but state licensure as well,”

said CEO Paul R. Lindamood. "Certification has long been recognized as the preferred path to licensure in allied health professions. In 1971, U.S. Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Elliot Richardson released a report recommending that all states adopt and use board certification exams for licensure purposes. In fact, the HEW went on to charter what would later become the NCCA."

Created in 1987, NCCA accredits programs that certify individuals in a wide range of professions and occupations, including nurses, respiratory therapists, counselors, emergency technicians and others. To date, more than 200 programs representing 100 organizations are part of the elite group that have earned NCCA accreditation.

ABOUT NCBTMB

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) was established in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of therapeutic massage and bodywork through a recognized credentialing program. NCBTMB examinations are currently accepted or recognized in statute or rule by 33 states plus the District of Columbia. There are currently more than 91,000 professionals with NCBTMB certification. NCBTMB's certification programs have been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

###