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**NOCA and ACE Work Together in Support of Access to Higher Education for Working Adults  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**WASHINGTON, DC** (October 30, 2009) - The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) is pleased to announce that the American Council on Education (ACE) is now accepting the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation of professional/occupation certification programs as evidence of compliance with major elements of the eligibility requirements of the ACE College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT). CREDIT connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping adults gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional degree programs. NCCA is the accrediting division of NOCA.

Jim Kendzel, NOCA Executive Director notes "The ACE CREDIT's recognition of the NCCA Accreditation as verification of compliance with major components of its eligibility standards reflects the high level of quality of the NCCA accreditation standards. In addition, helping to link professional certifications with college credits supports the President's American Graduation Initiative which calls for five million additional community college graduates by 2002." The NCCA is the largest certification accrediting body in the U.S. with over 220 accredited certification programs representing a broad range of occupations/professions.

James Selbe, ACE Assistant Vice President of Lifelong Learning, stated "After careful review of the NCCA standards, we found them to be substantive in affirming evidence of meeting important requirements within the Criteria for Eligibility to Participate in the College Credit Recommendation Service." Mr. Selbe further noted that, "The validation of this evidence will significantly expedite the review process for NCCA organizations and reflect a substantial savings in time, money and human resources associated with a review."

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Established in 1977, NOCA is the international leader in setting quality standards for credentialing organizations and through its division, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), has provided over 30 years of accrediting services to the credentialing industry. NOCA's membership is composed of credentialing organizations, testing companies and individual professional development consultants. Through its annual conference, webinars and publications, NOCA serves as the source for information on the latest trends and issues of concern to practitioners and organizations focused on certification, licensure and human resources development. NOCA and NCCA are based in Washington, DC. The Web site address is [www.noca.org](http://www.noca.org)

Founded in 1918, ACE ([www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)) is the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents, and more than 200 related associations, nationwide. It seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and influence public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives.

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