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NOCA Publishes First Quality Standard for Certificate Programs

WASHINGTON, DC (Jan. 26, 2009) – The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) announced today the publication of the first standard for certificate programs, *NOCA 1100 – Quality Standard for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs (2009)*. The Standard specifies essential requirements for certificate programs and provides guidance to program providers, consumers (both participants and employers) and others on what defines a high-quality program. In addition, the Standard is designed to be used by accrediting bodies as the benchmark standard for evaluating the quality of certificate programs. The project was initiated with the goal of setting high-quality standards for certificate programs while also helping to reduce confusion in the marketplace related to certification programs and certificate programs. The NOCA Standard has been submitted to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for consideration of adoption as an American National Standard.

“NOCA is proud to facilitate the consensus process for the development of this standard,” stated Paul Grace, MS, CAE, President of NOCA. “Certificate programs play a vital role in the education and training of individuals and having a standard that defines quality will only help to further enhance the value of these programs.”

The Standard is the end result of more than a year’s effort from a highly qualified and balanced group of experts representing the certificate provider community, human resource professionals, universities and academia, certification professionals, and government agencies.

“We worked diligently to balance the interests of all stakeholder groups and to reach a true consensus,” explained Lenora Knapp, PhD, President of Knapp & Associates International, who

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chaired the certificate program standard initiative. “We are confident that we achieved our goal and have created a standard that will expand opportunities for both consumers and providers of certificate programs.”

The next step for NOCA is to consider the development of an accreditation program based on the requirements of the standard.

The Standard is available to NOCA members at no charge and to non-NOCA members for a fee of \$75 per copy. To obtain a copy of the Standard please visit our website at www.noca.org.

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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, web seminars 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 headquartered in Washington, DC, with an office in Chicago. The Web site address is www.noca.org.

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