

# Lobby

How many years have you worked in prevention?

- 0-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 10+ years



Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network

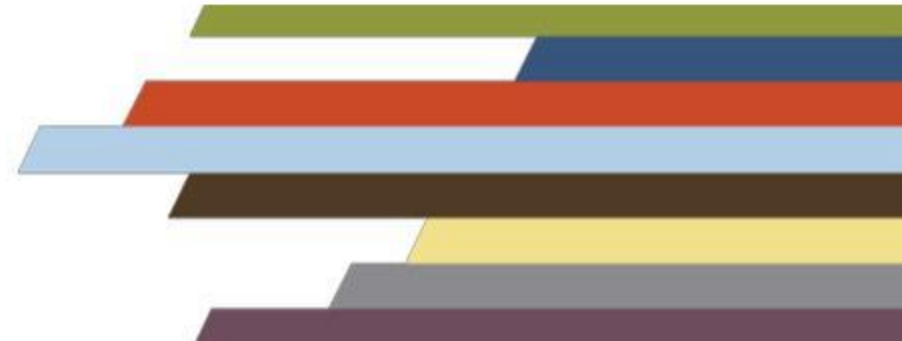
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# IC&RC Prevention Specialist Certification: What, Why and How

May 10, 2023

*Sandra Puerini Del Sesto, M.Ed, ACPS*



# Certification Board Panelists

## **Wayne Giles**

Arizona Board for Certification of Addiction Counselors

## **Pete Nielson**

California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals

## **Angela Bolan**

Hawaii Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

## **Britany Wiele (on behalf of Natalie Powell)**

Nevada Certification Board

## **James Arriola**

Pacific Behavioral Health Council and Certification Board

# Disclaimer

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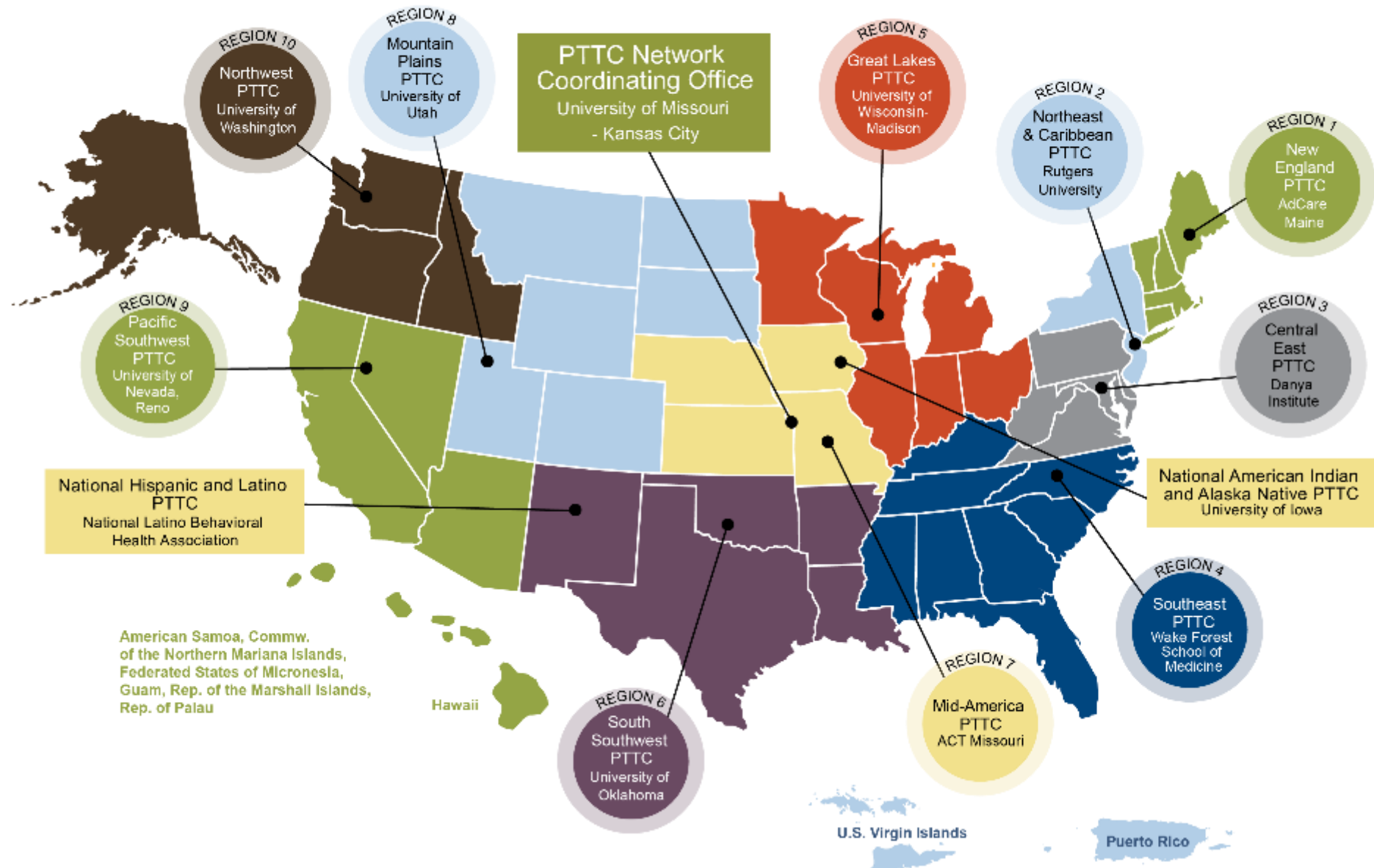
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**PTTC**

**Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network**  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**PTTC Network**



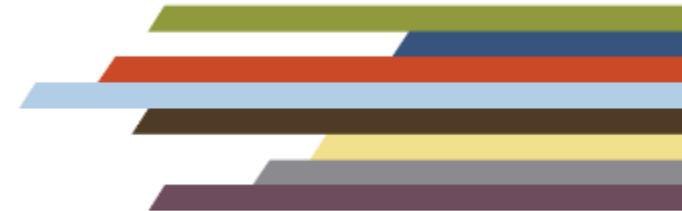
# Purpose of the TTCs

1

Develop and strengthen the **workforces** that provide substance use disorder and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

2

Help people and organizations incorporate **effective practices** into substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services.



# PTTC Network Approach

## ***The PTTCs...***

Develop and disseminate tools and strategies needed to improve the quality of substance abuse prevention efforts

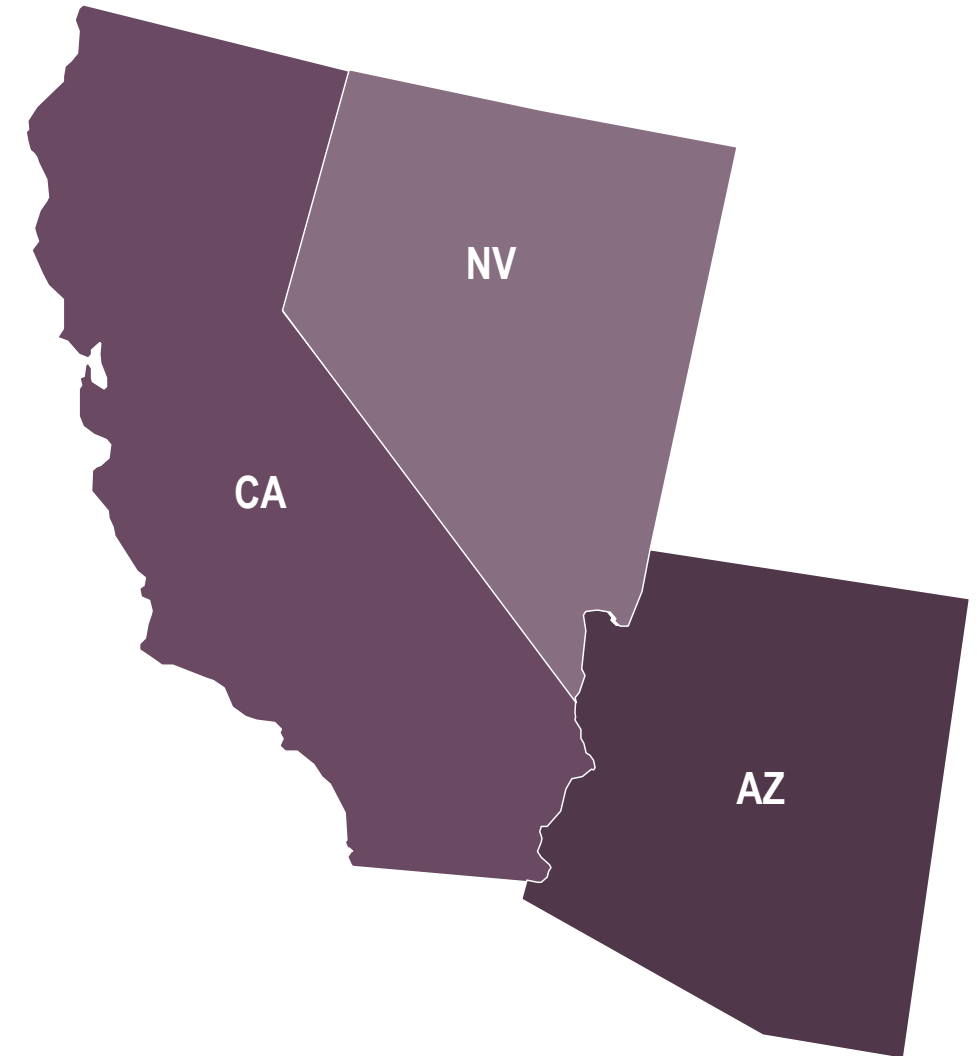
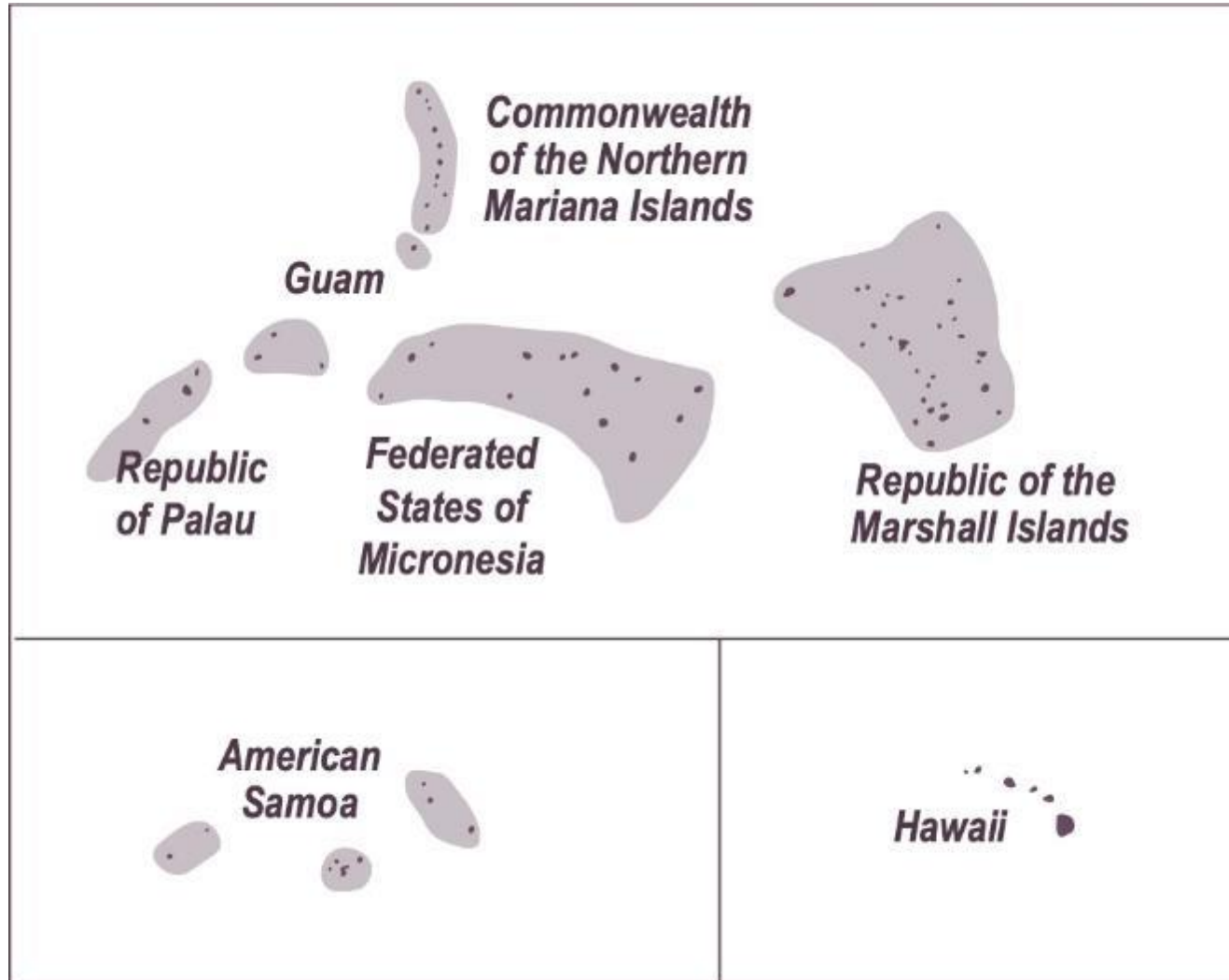
Provide training and resources to prevention professionals to improve their understanding of

- prevention science,
- how to use epidemiological data to guide prevention planning, and
- selection and implementation of evidence-based and promising prevention practices.

Develop tools and resources to engage the next generation of prevention professionals



# Pacific Southwest







# Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the University of Nevada, Reno is situated on the traditional homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples. These lands continue to be a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples and we recognize their deep connections to these places. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on their territory.

# Housekeeping

- Webinar recording and materials
- Certificates of attendance
- Meeting room



# Mark your Calendars!\*

**Utilizing Cultural and Social Determinants of Health to Address Substance Use Prevention  
Among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities**

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

## **Media in Prevention: A Three-Part Webinar Series**

**Webinar 1: Social Media Best Practices**

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

**Webinar 2: Media Literacy as a Practical and Transferrable Skill**

*Tuesday, July 11, 2023*

**Webinar 3: Using Media in Substance Misuse Prevention**

*Tuesday, August 1, 2023*

Please visit [pspttc.org](https://pspttc.org) for registration and more information!



# IC&RC Prevention Specialist Credential Overview

Sandra Puerini Del Sesto, M.Ed, ACPS



# What Is IC&RC (International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium )?

- The international organization that develops legally defensible standards and examinations for credentialing of prevention, substance misuse treatment, and recovery professionals
- Represents 81 member boards: 23 countries, 50 states and territories, 4 Native American regions, and all branches of the U.S. military.
- Has 51 boards offer the Prevention Specialist credential.

*Its Prevention Specialist Certification requirements are mapped on: <https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/prevention-specialistcertification/prevention-specialist-certification-states>*

# What Are the IC&RC Credentials?

- IC&RC's credentials include
  - Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC)
  - Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC)
  - Clinical Supervisor (CS)
  - **Prevention Specialist (PS) – since 1994**
  - Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CJP)
  - Peer Recovery Specialist (PR)



# What Is IC&RC?

- IC&RC represents over 50,000 reciprocal-level credentialed professionals.
- Up to half of all substance misuse professionals in the U.S. hold IC&RC credentials.





# Reciprocity

Bermuda	Delaware	Maine	New Jersey	South Dakota
Canada	Florida	Maryland	New Mexico	Tennessee
HIS Boards (3)	Georgia	Massachusetts	New York	Texas
US Army and Navy	Hawaii	Mexico	North Carolina	Utah
Alabama	Idaho	Michigan	Ohio	Vermont
Arizona	Illinois	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Virginia
Arkansas	Indiana	Mississippi	Pacific Islands	Washington
California	Iowa	Missouri	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Colorado	Kansas	Montana	Puerto Rico	Wisconsin
Connecticut	Kentucky	Nevada	Rhode Island	Wyoming
DC	Louisiana	New Hampshire	South Carolina	

# Benefits of Certification

- Identifies professionals who are specialists in the field
- Establishes credibility and verifies competency
- Becomes a marketing tool and enhances career mobility and your reputation in your profession.
- Becomes a marketing tool for the agency when promoting their services
- Offers the benefit of reciprocity when moving to another state, country, or nation.
- Testifies to the minimum competencies of the professional.
- Provides public protection and a grievance process for those harmed.
- Establishes a cadre of advocates for the field..

# Barriers to Certification

- Cost
- Standards which may be difficult for some to meet
- Competing credentials being offered by different organizations can be confusing
- Test anxiety!

# Prevention as a Profession

- ✓ A profession becomes a full-time occupation.
- ✓ Competencies are identified for a profession.
- ✓ Education/training institutions are established.
- ✓ Local/national associations are established.
- ✓ State licensing laws/certification regulations are established.

**PREVENTION IS A PROFESSION!**

# Prevention as a Regulated Profession

- There are two basic tenets for regulation:
  - There is a level of risk to the public.
  - There is a specific body of knowledge which requires competency by the professional.
- Prevention meets both of these identifiers.



# Prevention Competency

- Competency must be measured and monitored.
- Other professions measure and monitor competency.
- Basic competencies in a profession are measured in a Job Analysis completed by Subject Matter Experts and reviewed typically every five years.

# Credential Creation

- A Job Analysis (JA) is developed by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) – comprehensive job description of 0-5 year applicant position
- The JA is completed every five years.
  - Domains/core competencies are identified from the JA.
  - Tasks delineate what a professional does when providing competent prevention services.
- The credentialing exam is developed from the JA by SMEs.
- The credential sets minimum standards for experience, training and supervision are developed.
- Local boards adopt minimum standards & exams for use in their own jurisdiction.
- The process is driven by prevention specialists (SMEs) working directly with IC&RCs testing company.



# Prevention Specialist Domains

- Planning & Evaluation – 25%
- Prevention Education & Service Delivery – 15%
- Community Organization – 15%
- Professional Growth & Responsibility - 15%
- Communication – 11%
- Public Policy & Environmental Change – 19%

Updated 2023

# IC&RC Minimum Standards/Requirements

- **Formal Education:** GED or Equivalent
- **Experience:** 2,000 hours of prevention work experience (paid or volunteer)
- **Education:** 120 hours of training/education across 6 domains. 24 hours must be ATOD specific and 6 hours must be specific prevention ethics.
- **Supervision:** 120 hours specific to the domains with a minimum of 10 hours in each domain.
- **Examination:** All candidates must pass the IC&RC Prevention Specialist Examination.
- **Prevention Code of Ethics:** Must be signed by all applicants
- **Recertification:** 40 hours of additional training earned every 2 years.

# Preparing Your Application

- ✓ Document your course work
- ✓ Submit a prevention-focused job description
- ✓ Document your prevention supervision and experience
- ✓ Sign the Prevention Code of Ethics
- ✓ Pay the required fee
- ✓ (Take the exam)



# The Written Exam – Oh No!

- Candidates receive correspondence from the testing company regarding specific instructions to register.
- Accommodations are made for verified special needs.
- Exams are computer based and offered on an on-demand basis year round at sites worldwide.
- Preliminary scores are available immediately after a candidate completes the exam.
- Official scores and notification of certification will follow from the local board after the exam date.

# So 150 Questions But Only 125 Are Scored...What's Up with That?

- The Prevention Specialist exam is 150 multiple choice questions with a 4-option format but only 125 questions are scored.
- There will be 25 “unweighted” or “pre-test” items that will not count toward the candidate’s final score. Pretest or piloted items will not be identified on the exam, and will appear randomly on all exam forms.
- Candidates have up to 3 hours to complete the exam.

# Why Those Pre-test Items?

- Stay current with the profession and reflect current practice
- Minimizes the consequences of cheating that would invalidate any exam or item
- Allows IC&RC to produce more test forms and increase the security of the exams and ensure their quality.

*Pretest items have absolutely no effect on a candidate's score.*

# More About the Exam Process

- No books, papers, or other reference materials may be taken into the exam room.
- No questions concerning the content of the exam may be asked during the exam period.
- One form of photo identification and an admission letter will be required on the day of the exam.
- Be on time! If you arrive at the test site late and the exam has begun, you will not be permitted to enter and will forfeit your opportunity to test that day.
- Candidates may cancel or reschedule their exam prior to their scheduled date. There may be fees associated with this.



# Special Administration

- Individuals with disabilities and/or religious obligations that require modifications in exam administration may request specific procedure changes, in writing, to the credentialing authority (your jurisdiction) no fewer than 60 days prior to the exam date.
- The candidate must provide official documentation of the disability or religious issue.
- The testing site will offer appropriate modifications to its procedures when documentation supports the need for them.

# Pass or Fail

## Scoring the Exam

- Exam scores are reported on a scale of 200 to 800 for all international exams. Candidates must achieve a score of 500 in order to pass the exam. The score is determined by the number of questions correctly answered.
- IC&RC's testing company scores all exams. Scores will be broken down by category (domain) so that candidates can see percentages of correctly answered items in each domain.
- Candidates failing the exam can retest after a 60 day wait period from date of last taking the exam. Retest instructions come from the local board.

# What About Test Anxiety?

- A little bit of anxiety is a good thing.
- Better preparation minimizes test anxiety.
- Helpful aids: Take the sample test. Spend 10 minutes writing about your thoughts and feelings immediately before taking the exam.



# Exam Preparation

- The Prevention Candidate Guide includes the domains and tasks for each domain, sample exam questions and a list of references free of charge.
- They can be downloaded from IC&RC's website:  
[www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org)
- The RI Study Guide with a 50-question sample test is available on the IC&RC website and it's free!!!
- For those who wish to practice taking a computerized practice exam, one is also available for \$50.00 at on the IC&RC website:  
[http://internationalcredentialing.org/Resources/Documents/PracticeExams\\_instructions.pdf](http://internationalcredentialing.org/Resources/Documents/PracticeExams_instructions.pdf)

# Tips for Preparing

- Start with the Candidate Guide.
- Use the Job Analysis in the Guide as a knowledge and skills checklist.
- Review (aka study) the documents on its Resource List. *All test items are derived from these resources.*
- Review your SAPST and Prevention Ethics Information Sheets.
- Take the Study Guide sample test and review the answer key and explanations.
- Go back and study the areas you got wrong in the sample test.

# Over 2000 Exam Candidates Since December 2013

- Highest scaled score was 743 (about 8 questions incorrect)
- Lowest scaled score was 285 (about 36 questions correct)
- International pass rate = App. 79%
- International fail rate = app. 21%
- Total professionals holding CPS credential worldwide = app. 3100

# How Have Candidates Performed by Domain on the Exam?

- Planning and Evaluation – 75% correct
- Prevention Education and Service Delivery – 75%
- Communication – 74%
- Community Organization – 78%
- Public Policy and Environmental Change – 80%
- Professional Growth and Responsibility – 69%



# IC&RC Contact Information

- [www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org)
- tina@internationalcredentialing.org

# QUESTIONS ON THE PROCESS?



# Arizona Board for Certification of Addiction Counselors

1. 2,000 hours of work experience specific to Prevention.
2. Verification of 120 hours specific to the six performance domains. 24 hours of these 120 hours must be specific to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) use and abuse. Must have six (6) hours of prevention ethics education, and four (4) hours of HIV/AIDS education. Verification of 120 hours of supervised experience in the six performance domains listed above. There must be a minimum of 10 hours in each of the six performance domains.
3. Successful completion of the IC&RC Prevention Specialist examination.
4. Read, agree, and sign ABCAC's Code of Ethics for Prevention Specialists. There will be a written enforcement and appeals process if a professional violates ABCAC's Code of Ethics.
5. Recertification requires 40 hours of prevention specialist continuing education every 2 years, or 20 hours every year of certification. 7. Applicants must live and/or work at least 51% of the time in the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board for Certification of Addiction Counselors (ABCAC) at the time of application.

NOTE: Sources of education are college courses, seminars, conferences, in-services, institutes, lectures, workshops, etc. One college credit is equivalent to 15 clock hours. Three college credits are equivalent to 45 clock hours. All sources of education must be presented with documentation.

[www.abcac.org](http://www.abcac.org)

# Certification Fees (ABCAC)

Application Manual and Process fee	<b>\$150.00</b> (Non-refundable)
Exam Fee	<b>\$225.00</b>
Retest Fee	<b>\$225.00</b>
Recertification Fee	<b>\$150.00</b>

# California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals

- One year (2,000 hours) of SUD prevention experience
- 120 hours of approved prevention education and/or training (50 hours SUD-specific and six hours of prevention-specific ethics education)
- 120-hour practicum (specific performance domains)
- One professional letter of reference (letter must attest to applicant's knowledge, experience, and character)
- Signed CCPS Code of Ethics
- Passing score on the IC&RC Certified Prevention Specialist written examination

Contact: Pete Nielson ([pete@ccapp.us](mailto:pete@ccapp.us))



# State of Hawaii: Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

## Candidate Requirements

- Prevention Specific 120 hours
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) 60 hours
- Prevention and Cultural Competency 6 hours
- Supervised 2000 hours
- Performance of Domains 120 Hours
- Application \$25.00
- Exam \$125.00

## Renewal Requirements

- Renewal 2 years
  - 40 hours of continuing education in prevention and ATOD
  - Prevention Ethics 6 hours
  - Renewal Fee - \$25.00
- \* All fees are paid within the format of cashiers check or money order

**Contact:** Angela Bolan  
([angela.bolan@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:angela.bolan@doh.hawaii.gov))

# Nevada Certification Board

## Candidate Requirements

- 2000 hours of prevention work (within the last 7 years)
- 120 hours specific to the domains in the past 5 years (24 hours ATOD & 6 in prevention ethics)
- 120 hours of supervision w/ a minimum of 10 hours specific to each domain
- High school diploma or equivalency
- Must pass the IC&RC PS Exam and adhere to the NBC Prevention Specific Code of Ethics

**Fee:** initial certification is \$255 (\$250 if paid by check)

**Contact:** Natalie Powell ([npowell@casat.org](mailto:npowell@casat.org))

## Renewal Requirements

- 40 hours of Continuing education every two years in IC&RC prevention domains including 6 hours of ethics.

**Fee:** \$100



# Pacific Behavioral Health Council and Certification Board

## CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

- Two (2) years full-time experience in the ATOD specialty field, OR one (1) year if applicant has a bachelor degree or higher in a human service field. *Experience consists of verification of 4,000 hours (equal to two years) or 2,000 hours (equal to one year) of prevention specific performance related to ATOD.*
- In addition, the applicant must live or work within the six aforementioned Jurisdictions fifty-one (51%) of the time:
  - 1) Verification of 120 hours of supervised experience in the five (5) performance domains, with a minimum of 10 hours in each domain: Planning and Evaluation, Education and Training, Community Organization, Public Policy, and Professional Growth and Responsibility
  - 2) A minimum of one hundred (100) clock hours of ATOD education of which 50 hours must be prevention specific and fifty (50) hours must be relevant to the field of addiction.
  - 3) Six (6) hours of Prevention Specific Ethics Education
  - 4) Four (4) hours of HIV/AIDS Education.
  - 5) Signed documentation to abide by the Certified Prevention Specialists Code of Ethics.
  - 6) Achieve a passing score on the IC&RC written Prevention Examination.

## RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 40 education contact hours related to the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the tasks within the five (5) performance domains
- 3 hours (of the 40 hours) must be on prevention specific ethics

### **Application Packet**

Review of Application	
Certification Application Forms	
Prevention Certification Manual	
Written Exam	\$ 160.00
Total Certification Fee	\$ 160.00

### **Recertification**

Recertification Fee	\$ 85.00
International Certificate	\$ 30.00
Total Recertification Fee	\$ 115.00

### **Other Fees**

Re-take Written Exam		\$100.00
Duplication/Replacement Certificate		\$ 20.00
Returned Check Charge	\$ 25.00	



# QUESTIONS ON STATE REQUIREMENTS?



# Certification Board Contact Information

## **Wayne Giles**

[abcac@abcac.org](mailto:abcac@abcac.org)

Arizona Board for Certification of Addiction Counselors

## **Pete Nielson**

[pete@ccapp.us](mailto:pete@ccapp.us)

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## **Angela Bolan**

[angela.bolan@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:angela.bolan@doh.hawaii.gov)

Hawaii Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

## **Natalie Powell**

[npowell@casat.org](mailto:npowell@casat.org)

Nevada Certification Board

## **James Arriola**

[pbhcc.director@gmail.com](mailto:pbhcc.director@gmail.com)

Pacific Behavioral Health Council and Certification Board

# Post-Webinar Feedback

Please click on the link in the chat to complete a very brief online feedback form!

*Thank you!*



# Connect with us!

Find us on the web: [www.pspttc.org](http://www.pspttc.org)

Join our mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/glssWD>

Email with general questions: [pspttc-info@casat.org](mailto:pspttc-info@casat.org)

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Follow us on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/PS\\_PTTC](https://twitter.com/PS_PTTC)



Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

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PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network  
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# Thank You!

# CASAT

 Center for the Application of  
Substance Abuse Technologies  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

