

National Council E-Bulletin

*For Industry Association Executives, Managers, Trainers and Educators JUNE
Interested in Training, Skill Standards & Skill Credentialing Issues*

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National Council for Skill Standards in Graphic Communications

The NC Binding/Finishing/Distribution Project Advisory Group has been formed to lead the NC in the design and development of the Council's *Binding, Finishing and Distribution Operators' Certification Examination Project*. The group will be chaired by Ralph F. Box, Jr., recently retired Senior Vice President, Muller Martini, and current recipient of the R & E Council's John L. Kronenberg Leadership Award. He brings to this position unprecedented experience, and is respected as the leading, singular, international authority in postpress operations. Advisory group members include: Michael Houser, VP Operations Technology, Ray Corigliano, Division Technical Training, and James Goff, Bindery Manager, Vertis-TC Advertising; Jack Bendror, President, Megatronics, Inc.; John Carlson, Training Director, McNaughton & Gunn; Robert Crist, Finishing Specialist, Cadmus Communications; Dr. Twyla Cummings, Assoc. Prof., RIT; Charles Dine, Manager, Corp. Industrial Engineering, Banta Corp.; Christy Holstead, Training Curriculums Coordinator, GATF; Chris Kular, President, CK&A; Bruce Jacobsen, President, Bridgeport National Bindery, Inc.; Debbi Neff, Training Director, Perry/Judd's, Inc.; Timothy Perkins, President, Old Ridge Bindery & Adjunct Professor, Bindery, RIT; Werner Rebsamen, Prof. Emeritus, RIT; Mortimer Sendor, Consultant; Keith Starke, Corporate Manager, Finishing Operations, Quad/Graphics, Inc.; and Larry Tanowitz, Vice President, Bindery, Heidelberg USA, Inc.

Bindery and finishing subject matter experts (SMEs) selected to write test items for the project will have a high level of computer literacy and will be provided with a secure internet web site for test item submission to a central server, where test items will be processed for organization into a series of certification examinations organized under these examination titles:

***Binding and Finishing Operator's Certification Examination
Mailing and Distribution Operator's Certification Examination.***

The Council will work in collaboration with GATF in the design of the project and their recently initiated *Binding and Finishing Curriculum Project*, by Chris Kular, President, CK&A.

Industry organizations endorsing the project include: Binding, Finishing & Distribution Magazine, John S. Favat Jr., Publisher/Editorial Director; Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, George H. Ryan, President; Research & Engineering Council, Ronald Mihills, Executive Director, and Binding Industries of America, Donald Dunham,

Executive Director. Project sponsors and additional industry endorsing organizations will be announced in future *E-Bulletins*.

The NC Digital Imaging Technicians' Certification Examination - comprised of individual assessments covering Composition, Job Engineering, Image Capture and Digital Output - will challenge high-tech operators in the printing, publishing and advertising industries. Expert Digital Imaging Technician (EDIT) certification will be awarded upon successful completion of each of the four exams in the series, and Master Digital Imaging Technician (MDIT) certification awarded with successful completion all four exams. Certificates will be awarded with successful completion of each of the exams, with a gold MDIT lapel pin with successful completion of all four exams.

The NC has officially endorsed the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF) *Digital Imaging Certification Review Program* as the study guide, now in preparation with StaffingTools.com, a division of Digital Media, Inc. (DMI), Michael Budd, President. Following is a listing of the specific operator skill functions examined in the series:

Composition: Orientation to DTP / Design and typography / Color specification / Image editing software / Illustration software / Page layout software / Graphic arts workflow / Imaging file formats / Font management / Proofing and quality control / Basics of Press, Binding and Finishing

Job Engineering: Orientation to DTP / Graphic arts workflow / Client analysis / Imaging file formats / Font management / Digital file transport / Preflighting / Proofing and quality control / Basics of Press, Binding and Finishing / Digital prepress workflow

Image Capture: Orientation to DTP / Color appreciation / Color reproduction / Digital image basics / Image capture hardware and software / Introduction to color management / Basics of Press, Binding and Finishing / File servers, OPI and networks / Advanced proofing

Digital Output: Orientation to DTP / Font management / Proofing and quality control / Basics of Press, Binding and Finishing / Digital prepress workflow / File servers, OPI and networks / Advanced PostScript and RIPs / Advanced proofing / Imagesetters and platesetters / Digital trapping / Digital imposition

Each test item (question) in the series is presently undergoing a final, comprehensive technical analysis to assure accurate correlation to current production practice and the GATF *Digital Imaging Certification Review Program*. This phase of development is being conducted by Hal Hinderliter, Hinderliter Consulting & Creative Services (www.halhinderliter.com), in collaboration with DMI. Hal was formerly GATF's director in charge of the Foundation's Robert Howard Center for Imaging Excellence, and was heavily involved in the design and development of the *Imaging Skills Training Program Curriculum*. Hal is an internationally-known industry leader and lecturer on electronic

imaging and reproduction. Upon completion of this phase of the project, each of the exams in the series will be validated to determine the cut (passing) score; immediately following the NC will announce national, on-line availability of the new *Digital Imaging Technicians' Certification Examination* series.

Special-arrangement testing for certification. Companies with three or more operators interested in seeking NC certification through the NC *Flexo* or *Litho Press Operators' Multicolor Certification Examinations* may now schedule testing dates more convenient than the nationally scheduled testing periods. The Council contracts the proctoring of its exams local to the requesting company's facilities. Two *Flexo* and *Litho Press Operator Multicolor Certification Examination* periods remain for 2001: August 23 and November 15. *Registration Kits* and *Study Guides*, with sample test questions, are available at no charge.

Litho press operators who attend GATF Pittsburgh-based Press Operating, Troubleshooting, Makeready, or Train-the-Trainer Workshops and who meet NC eligibility requirements receive substantial discounts when registering for NC *Sheetfed or Web Offset Press Multicolor Certification Examinations*. The offer also applies to operators who have received the *Certificate of Completion*, having successfully completed the *GATF Sheetfed or Web Offset Press Training Curriculum*. The offer is retroactive to January 1, 2001. Contact the NC managing director for details.

This issue of the NC E-Bulletin is reaching you via our new website, now designed and developed: www.ncssgc.org, which you may wish to access for further information about NC certification examinations and services. You may reach the NC Managing Director by accessing bsmith@ncssgc.org. Your associates can receive the monthly *E-Bulletin* by sending their e-mail addresses to subscribe@ncssgc.org, automatically adding their names to our list of recipients.

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