

National Council E-Bulletin

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

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National Council for Skill Standards in Graphic Communications

National Validation of NC Digital Imaging Certification Examination (DICE) by imaging Subject Matter Experts (SME) is proceeding in a total of 16 locations in six cities: Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Miami, Pasadena and San Francisco. The resulting scores will be tabulated for determining the cut (passing) scores for national release of the four exams in the late August/early September time frame. New to the printing industry, the DICE examinations, 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) certificates will be awarded upon successful completion of each of the four exams in the series, and Master Digital Imaging Technician (MDIT) certification, with a lapel pin, will be awarded with successful completion all four exams.

The NC has officially endorsed the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (*GATF*) *Digital Imaging Certification Review Program* as the study guide, prepared in cooperation 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

Imaging operators interested in participating as SME during the month of August may access the following: <http://www.staffingtools.com/NCSS/public/nccsreg.asp>, or call Jill Erisman, DMI: 812-355-3030. The names of the organizations participating in the validation process will be listed in an upcoming issue of the E-Bulletin. NC policy restricts the publication of the names of candidates seeking certification and those having achieved NC credentials.

DICE at PRINT 01, September 6-13 - McCormick Place - Chicago. Digital imaging operators with a minimum of three years' experience [in the tasks listed above] and interested in taking any of the NC *Digital Imaging Certification Examinations (DICE)* can make SHOW plans now. Special registration show offer on a first-come, first served basis at the DMI booth at PRINT 01. (While you're at the GATF/PIA Booth, check out the new *GATF Imaging On-Line Review Course!*)

The NC Binding/Finishing/Distribution Project Advisory Group, formed to lead the NC in the design and development of the Council's Binding, Finishing and Distribution Operators' Certification Examination Project, met on June 28-29 for its first meeting at the Vertis-TCAdvertising facility in East Longmeadow, MA. The group is chaired by Ralph F. Box, Jr., industry consultant and recently retired Senior Vice President, Muller Martini and current recipient of the R & E Council's John L. Kronenberg Leadership Award. The Advisory Group will provide guidance in the design and development of the

Binding and Finishing Operator's Certification Examination, and

Mailing and Distribution Operator's Certification Examination.

Major subjects discussed in the first Group meeting included testing formats to be considered for postpress personnel, and a progress report on the *GATF Binding and Finishing Curriculum*, now being written by Chris Kular, president, CK&A, Toronto, Canada. The postpress operating functions discussed for the development of certification examinations include cutting, folding, stitching, embossing, die cutting, foil stamping, perfect binding, adhesive binding (hard and soft cover), and case binding (hard cover).

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 Association International, Donald Dunham, Executive Director. Project sponsors and additional industry endorsing organizations will be announced in future *E-Bulletins*.

Special Notice. National Council Imaging Advisory Committee member Hal Hinderliter would like to invite any readers who are also computer-to-plate system users to participate in his 2001 CTP User Survey. This effort will collect data regarding the success of CTP implementation and its return on investment for discussion during his upcoming Print '01 lecture, the ROI of CTP (Sunday Sept. 9 from 10 am to 11:45 am).

Everyone who completes the on-line survey (at <http://www.halhinderliter.com/ctpsurvey.html>) will receive an Executive Summary of the survey results; early-birds who complete the survey by Friday August 3 receive a bonus: a PDF version of Hal's handout from his August 4 CTP seminar for PIA Florida.

Know someone else who would like to stay informed of the National Council's activities? Your associates can receive the monthly *E-Bulletin* by sending an e-mail to subscribe@ncssgc.org, which automatically adds their names to our list of recipients. For any other questions, you may reach the NC Managing Director via e-mail: bsmith@ncssgc.org.

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Website: www.ncssgc.org.