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○ February | ○ VOLUME 1 | ○ 2008

CRA IN *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CERTIFIED RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

Next Exam period is May 3-17, 2008. Upcoming 2008 review sessions: March 10, Concord NC, NCSRA chapter meeting; April 26, Cambridge, Mass., NESRA Section meeting.

Helping you achieve your professional goals

Welcome to the inaugural edition of “CRA In Focus!”

This newsletter opens a new chapter for the Research Administrator’s Certification Council, as it is our first formal publication. It fulfills a goal that I set when I recently became Chair of this group: Reaching out to all research administrators and sharing information about the RACC and the benefits of becoming a Certified Research Administrator.

I think that my story is typical of many of you who choose to take the CRA exam. It was 2003 and I had been in the field of research administration for nearly 16 years. Of course I thought I knew all there was to know about our field. I learned otherwise while preparing for the CRA exam! The exam was not easy by any means, but neither is the work that we do day in and day out. I passed the exam, and recently re-certified. Obtaining the CRA is one of the high points in my career. The achievement gave me a renewed sense of professional credibility as well as an affirmation of my status as a well-rounded research administrator. I encourage

those of you who are “on the fence” about the CRA to contact me, or any member of the RACC Board to talk about how the CRA has had an impact on our respective careers. There is also a list of mentors on the RACC site who are available for study help or moral support. Contact a mentor! Not only will you gain a professional colleague, you may also make a friend!

If you are already a CRA, I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and learn more about the organization and the accomplishments of your peers (or perhaps seeing your own name if you are a brand new or recertified CRA!). If you are not yet certified, I hope this publication inspires you to pursue the CRA designation. In either case, I hope that you enjoy our inaugural edition! If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics, you can contact our editor, Ms. Renee Vaughan, at 919.684.1891.

Best wishes,
Katie Watkins-Wendell, M.Ed., CRA
Chair, Research Administrator’s
Certification Council



New Recertification Requirements

Beginning with June 30, 2008 recertification, those who submit a recertification application will be required to submit, along with their professional and educational documentation, 3 questions for use on a future version of the CRA examination. In this way the bank of new questions will be continually refreshed so RACC can keep its examination current and valid.

Complete instructions on how to construct the questions will be part of the recertification application. Those who are recertifying will be referred to the test content outline for ideas on those topics which they may wish to use for the questions.



Getting the most from our research analysis

"Employing CRA's provides credibility for your organization, both internally and externally."

ROLE DELINEATION STUDY

The RACC has contracted with Professional Testing Corporation to conduct a role delineation (position task analysis) study of the profession of research and sponsored programs administration. The survey will extensively define the tasks of those who are in the profession, whether the tasks are performed weekly, monthly, or annually. The results of the study will help the RACC fine tune the Body of Knowledge (test content outline) in order to ensure that the questions on the examination closely reflect the actual work performed by those in the profession as it is currently practiced.

A task force will be meeting in early 2008 to prepare the survey document. After it is ready and has been beta tested it will be sent to as many research and sponsored programs administrators as possible (both CRA and non-CRA) by way of an electronic hyperlink.. Everyone will be given two weeks to complete and submit the finished survey. Please, when you receive your copy of the survey, be sure to respond within the two-week window. A summary of the survey results will be reported in a future issue.



Research Administrators
Certification Council

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RECERTIFICATION

The RACC is pleased to report an 85% recertification rate for those who were due to recertify December 31, 2007. That's 15% higher than the average for most professional certification programs.

Congratulations to the following individuals who successfully recertified:

- Lisa C. Asch, CRA
- Marcie Avery, CRA
- Joan Birdwell, CRA
- Janice Blum, CRA
- Cyndy L. Bonsignore, CRA
- Deborah Anne Brougher, CRA
- Elayn G. Byron, CRA
- Loretta L. Davis, CRA
- Andrea Deaton, CRA
- Debra L. Drobek, CRA
- Liz Fox, CRA
- Nancy K. Ginn, CRA
- Lisa A. Hipple, CRA
- Jane P. Lawrence, CRA
- Leslie Levine, CRA
- Sue Logan, CRA
- Teresa M. Logiotatos, CRA
- Bettie McGowan-Hudson, CRA
- Katherine McShane, CRA
- Lisa E. Mosley, CRA
- Sharon E. Moss, CRA
- Tracie J. Robertson, CRA
- Susan Wyatt Sedwick, CRA
- John D. Sites, Jr., CRA
- Vicki S. Stepp, CRA
- Michael S. Strickland, CRA
- Darlene Thiel, CRA
- Danielle Maria Trepagnier, CRA
- Renee J. Vaughan, CRA
- Kathryn Watkins-Wendell, CRA
- Lisa G. Whitten, CRA
- AnnMarie Zanger, CRA

NEWLY CERTIFIED CRAs!!

One hundred eighteen persons successfully passed the CRA Certification examination in December 2007. The new CRAs are a diverse group, representing institutions across the country, from Hawaii to Alaska. Congratulate your colleagues! Visit <http://www.cra-cert.org/dec07.htm> to view the listing.

CERTIFICATION STATISTICS

A recent study of certification organizations revealed some interesting statistics. Here are some excerpts, along with how the RACC stacks up.

Statistic: 39% of certifying organizations offer only one examination; 28% offer 3-5 examinations.
RACC: Offers one examination

Statistic: 47% of the organizations have been in operation for 21 years or more.
RACC: Began to organize in 1992; administered its first examination in 1993.

Statistic: 35% test fewer than 300 candidates annually.
RACC: By the end of the December testing window RACC will have tested about 325 candidates in 2007.



2007 SRA International Hartford Nichol森 Award Winner!

Karen M. Wilson, CRA

2007 SRA Distinguished Faculty!

Renee J. Vaughan, CRA, Sharon McCarl, CRA, Jackie Solberg, CRA,
Donna Marano, CRA and Madge Bresloff, CRA

CRA DESIGNATION

Experience and Discipline



CRA IN FOCUS is a newsletter of the Research Administrators Certification Council.

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The Research Administrators Certification Council was formed in 1993 and is an independent non-profit organization. The Council is comprised of active research administrators whose role is to certify that an individual, through experience and testing has the fundamental knowledge necessary to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator.

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