



Your NCTA Monthly Quick Bites for March 2026

“Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention and sincere effort.” — Aristotle



How will you march forth in excellence this month?

NCTA Conference Registration Opens March 16!



Sacramento is waiting for you! Join us in Sacramento for the 2026 NCTA Conference—where connection, innovation, and professional growth come together.

The 27th annual conference is from September 14 - 17, 2026.

 **Registration opens Monday, March 16**

 **Early Bird Registration: \$550 (through June 19)**

After June 19, registration increases to \$600—so be sure to secure your spot early!

The Program Committee is currently reviewing an outstanding slate of proposals, and the excitement is building. Our keynote speaker and capnote session will be announced in the coming weeks—you won't want to miss these dynamic presentations.

In addition to an engaging conference program, attendees can look forward to:

- Meaningful networking opportunities in sponsor workshops and the exhibit hall
- Dinner groups and a Sacramento scavenger hunt hosted by Membership Engagement
- A Special Interest Group meeting organized by Partnerships & Outreach
- Professional Services sessions on Test Center Certification support
- A Finance Division workshop on applying for NCTA Grants

Whether you're looking to expand your professional network, gain practical tools, or deepen your involvement in NCTA, this conference has something for you.

Make plans now to join your colleagues in Sacramento—we can't wait to see you there!



Shout Outs!

Name of Nominee: Cherry Williams

Position/Institution: Advisor for CCC - Coordinator of Testing Services, Auburn University

Let's give a big shout-out to Cherry Williams for her dedication to the NCTA organization. Cherry has been in testing for over 16 years. She has been volunteering enthusiastically behind the scenes for the past 5 years and has served as chair of Membership Initiatives and is currently the advisor for the Committee for Connections and Collaboration. Cherry is the person responsible for Testing Professionals Week. She loves to connect with colleagues, share ideas with the hope of making testing spaces a little brighter and more welcoming for candidates and testing staff in the industry. Thank you, Cherry, for your leadership and commitment!

Name of Nominee: Llesmin Gonzales

Position/Institution: Awards Committee Member, Texas State Technical College

It is with great pleasure we give a shout-out to Llesmin for her great ideas and the dedication she provides to the Award Committee. She is a dependable resource for the committee; she helps with our benchmarks and makes sure the membership gets reminder emails from our committee about nominating NCTA members. We appreciate her enthusiasm, ideas, and fun clip art she provides to make our emails stand out. She is a great committee colleague, a caring person, and keeps in mind NCTA's mission and vision. She is the first one to volunteer and make things happen. She brings a unique and fresh perspective to projects or tasks. Thank you, Llesmin, for being such an integral part of our committee/family!

Name of Nominee: Cynthia Walls

Position/Institution: Test Center Certification Advisor/Evaluator

We also extend a heartfelt shout-out to Cynthia for the outstanding work she has provided to the Test Center Test Certification Committee. As both an advisor and evaluator, Cynthia has brought exceptional insight, professionalism, and dedication to every aspect of the process. Her thoughtful feedback, attention to detail, and commitment to maintaining NCTA's Professional Standards and Guidelines have significantly strengthened the integrity and impact of the committee's work. We are incredibly grateful for her expertise and the steady, collaborative spirit she brings to the team. Thank you, Cynthia, for making such a meaningful difference!

Did you know NCTA has a great way to recognize hard work?

There is still time to get all your nominations in for Conference Awards and monthly Shout Outs. Having worked in higher education for over 20 years, I know there are lots and lots of great people, especially in testing, making a huge difference every day.

- Do you know someone who goes the extra mile?
- Do you know someone who always has great ideas at meetings and is always the first one to get the wheels rolling on a project?
- Do you know someone awesome in your respective committees who is at the ready and delivers every time?

Please nominate all our awesome members who do a great job day in and day out.

Visit us at <https://www.ncta-testing.org/awards> to nominate TODAY! If you need help or have questions, we are here to help. Please email us at awards@ncta-testing.org.

From the Desk of the Chair, Finance Division

- **NCTA W-9 Form Update Release – 1 February 2026.** Visit <https://www.ncta-testing.org/ncta-w-9>
- **Keep your eyes on the membership expiration date.** Is it time to review your Membership Renewal for 2026? Here are a few things to know.

Where can I locate my renewal invoice? If you have an individual membership, you can locate your invoice by logging into your NCTA account and selecting update your profile. There you will see any outstanding balance, and the option to view and pay your invoices.

- **What are the payment options?** You can pay by credit card or debit card, ACH or EFT bank drafts.
- **What if someone else is responsible for submitting the payment, or the person responsible for coordinating the payment is no longer a member of NCTA?** If your institution's Accounts Payable Office is responsible for submitting the membership dues payment, or if a previously responsible member is no longer with your organization, you may request to have your open invoice sent to the party responsible by providing NCTA with the payer's email address.
- **What if my existing membership is with my previous institution and is due to expire but I want to continue as an NCTA member with my current institution?** Send an email to info@ncta-testing.org at least 30 days in advance of your expiration requesting assistance.
- **Avoid the headache of not being able to access your NCTA account.** Pay your membership dues before your account enters the Grace Period.
- **Reminder:** Contact NCTA Finance by emailing treasurer@ncta-testing.org for assistance if you have questions or concerns involving fees and payments.





Application Window Closes Soon!

There's still time to invest in your ideas! Submit your NCTA Grants Application for the 2026–2027 grant year before the submission deadline of **Friday, March 13, 2026**.


Remember, NCTA offers a variety of grant opportunities to support projects that move the field of testing and assessment forward. If securing funding is part of your 2026 goals, now is the perfect time to take the next step.



Need Help Putting the Finishing Touches on your Grant Application Proposal?


The NCTA Grants Committee will host its final Virtual Q&A Office Hours before the application deadline. This is a casual, drop-in space to ask questions, talk through ideas, and get real-time guidance. Join us for as long as you'd like.

- **Finishing Touches:** Final prep before you submit


 Friday, March 6, 2026 | 2–3:00 pm ET

 Join: <https://meet.google.com/ptr-njcd-eob>

If your institution restricts access to Google Meet, email us at grants@ncta-testing.org, and we'll arrange an alternate platform.

 Learn more about the Grants Program and explore grant opportunities: [NCTA Grants Program webpage](#)

 Questions? Contact grants@ncta-testing.org

 **Don't miss the deadline. Grant applications must be submitted by Friday March 13, 2026.**

SIG Coffee Date

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to join us for the most recent SIG Coffee Date.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming SIG (Special Interest Group) Coffee Dates:



Online Proctoring SIG June 18, 2026 3-4 pm EST

&

Management SIG in August 6, 2026 3-4 pm EST

Grab your coffee and come join us for relaxed conversation and collaboration. We look forward to seeing you then!

Testing Professionals Week

Testing Professionals Week: April 13–17, 2026

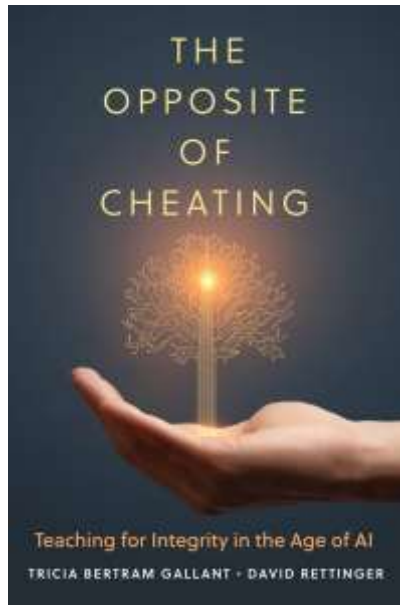
Join us in celebrating Testing Professionals Week, April 13–17! This week recognizes the dedicated individuals who support assessment, uphold academic integrity, and ensure exams run smoothly for students and faculty alike.

From coordinating complex administrations to providing accommodations and managing secure testing environments, testing professionals make a lasting impact—often behind the scenes.

Let's take time to recognize and thank the MVPs of our profession!



NCTA Spring Book Study (Closing March 3)



NCTA Spring 2026 Book Study - [Register](#) by March 3, 2026!

The NCTA Professional Development Division is happy to announce the Spring 2026 Book Study!

Book Title: *The Opposite of Cheating: Teaching for Integrity in the Age of AI* by Tricia Bertram Gallant and David Rettinger

Facilitator: Jan Gonzalez, Purdue University Northwest

Dates/Time: Thursday's at 2:00 pm CST on March 5, March 19, April 2 and April 16

Why This Book Study?

Academic integrity challenges are evolving—particularly with increased technology use and AI. *The Opposite of Cheating* reframes integrity as a systems-level responsibility, offering practical strategies that align closely with the work of testing professionals.

This book study invites participants to explore how testing environments, policies, procedures, and professional practices can actively promote integrity, fairness, and student success.

This book study can be highly educative for testing professionals who administer academic exams as they work with faculty and students and promote academic integrity.

What Participants Will Gain

A deeper understanding of integrity-focused assessment
Practical strategies for testing centers
Shared language for integrity conversations
Professional dialogue with peers and the author

Book Discussion Schedule:

The book discussions will take place on Thursday's at 2:00 pm CST.

March 5: Chapters 1-2

March 19: Chapters 3-4

April 2: Chapters 7-9

April 16: Recap and Q&A with author Tricia Bertram Gallant

Check out the [NCTA Book Study](#) website for more information.

NCTA Conference Webinar

[Register](#) for the March 25 webinar to learn more about this year's conference.

Members of the Conference Planning Committee visited Sacramento in February to see our amazing conference space (SAFE Center) and conference hotel (Hyatt Regency). All conference events and sessions will take place on the same floor at the conference center, which is only 115 steps from the hotel. Key aspects of the conference are being finalized now, and we invite you to join us on Wednesday, March 25th, to learn more about this year's conference in Sacramento and ask questions.



Newly Certified and Recertified Test Centers



Congratulations to our newly certified and recertified test centers. Your commitment and hard work are truly commendable.

Recertifications

- Mott Community College
- Valencia College - Winter Park
- Valencia College - Poinciana
- Three Rivers College
- Valencia College - West
- Valencia College - Osceola
- Troy University

Initial Certifications

- Kilgore College
- Valencia College - Downtown Campus
- St. Louis Community College - Forest Park

Help Shape the NCTA Digest!

Love great ideas, thoughtful writing, and connecting with colleagues? NCTA is looking for a volunteer **Digest Assistant** for our *NCTA Digest*!

The Digest is where NCTA members share articles, book reviews, and opinion pieces that inspire and inform our community. As a Digest Assistant, you'll:

- Collect submissions from members.
- Work with a Digest Editor to polish and refine content.
- Pull it all together into a publication we can all be proud of!

Time Commitment: About 1-2 hours a month

What You Bring: A love of words, attention to detail, and a knack for meeting deadlines.

It's a fun, creative way to get more involved with NCTA, connect with peers, and help keep our professional conversation thriving.

Interested? [Click here to apply.](#)



NCTA Volunteer Opportunities – Available Positions



NCTA is currently reviewing applications for several volunteer positions across our divisions. These roles offer meaningful ways to contribute to our profession and support fellow members.

Open positions include:

- **Conference App Committee Member** (Professional Development Division) – Support the MobileUp conference app with setup, updates, and live troubleshooting.
- **Test Center Certification Team Member** (Professional Services Division) – Review certification applications to ensure compliance with NCTA Standards and Guidelines.
- **Continuing Education (CE) Committee Member** (Administration Division) – Evaluate CE submissions and help maintain the integrity of our certification programs.
- **NCTA Digest Assistant** (Professional Development Division) – Assist with writing, editing, and publishing the NCTA Digest.

Thank you to all who have applied and continue to serve NCTA!

[Click here to apply today!](#)

Connect With Us:

Let's stay connected! Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see what we're up to. Every post tells a story of change. Follow to see the difference you are making in NCTA.

