



Your NCTA Monthly Quick Bites for February 2026

February is a reminder that even behind the scenes, the work you do in testing centers makes a lasting impact on every test-taker who walks through the door. ”



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NCTA Program Session Proposals—deadline extended to February 16!

Good news! The **Call for Program Proposals** has been extended to **Monday, February 16, by 5:00 PM (PST)**. There's still time to share your expertise and contribute to the NCTA community.

We're looking for engaging sessions that highlight practical knowledge and real-world experience, including topics such as:

- Running an effective testing center
- Using data to tell your story
- Test security challenges and best practices
- Training, motivating, and supporting staff
- Managing stressful or complex situations
- ...and much more!

Your experience matters. By presenting, you help strengthen the association and support the continued growth of the testing field.

New to NCTA? Submitting is easy—just a title, presenter(s), and a brief summary.

[Submit your proposal](#)



NCTA Proctoring Network Refresh



The NCTA Proctoring Network (NPN) is getting a fresh start! The database has been reset, the extra login is gone, and your information will now be updated each year automatically with your NCTA membership renewal.

The NPN is a referral service offered by the National College Testing Association to support distance learning. It helps connect students—especially those away from their home campuses—with professional testing centers where they can take exams. The service is free for students and others looking for a secure, professional testing location.

To be listed, testing centers must be current NCTA members and agree to follow the NPN Guidelines, as well as the NCTA Professional Standards and Guidelines. Listings are limited to active testing centers and are not available to individuals or informal proctoring groups.

Interested in joining or rejoining the NPN? Use this link to get started:

<https://ncta.memberclicks.net/npn-directory-form#/>

Please note: Corporate listings require an annual fee.



Shout Outs!

Melanie Marine

Mentorship Program/Committee Member

Melanie Marine is a member of the NCTA Mentorship Program Committee. Her devotion to advancing the mission of the Mentorship Program by working diligently to organize meetings and events to support the values and promote networking to positively impact both the committee's goals and the broader NCTA community is to be highly commended. Melanie played a very important role by collaboratively supporting the Mentorship Program's conference agenda. She devoted her time and talents to help design and create program handouts, table-top topics for discussions, and immersed herself in her role as program recruiter to new testing professionals among the NCTA membership community during the 2025 NCTA Conference. Her contributions and dedication have advanced the program's commitment to supporting our members through experiential knowledge and the lens of professional connectivity. Melanie is recognized for her professionalism, reliability, and genuine passion for service. Her ability to connect with empathy and integrity inspire peers and enhance the effectiveness of the committee and the Mentorship Program. In recognition of her outstanding leadership, collaborative spirit, setting a great example, and unwavering commitment to the mission of NCTA, Melanie is highly deserving of this recognition.

Carrie Solomon
Mentorship Program/Co-Chair

Carrie Solomon Co-Chairs the NCTA Mentorship Program Committee and has provided exemplary leadership and services as Co-Chair of the Mentorship Program Committee within NCTA. Her dedication to advancing the mission of NCTA by promoting access to support and networking continues to have an impact on both the committee and the broader NCTA community. In her role as Co-Chair, Carrie has demonstrated exceptional skill in bringing together diverse perspectives, fostering inclusive dialogue, and guiding the committee toward meaningful outcomes. Through her thoughtful leadership and collaborative approach, she has elevated team participation, improved communication within the team, and ensured that every initiative aligns with the Program's goals. Carrie was instrumental in collaboratively supporting the program's conference agenda. She devoted her time and talents to designing and helping create program handouts, table-top topics for discussions, and played an important role in networking with program prospects during the 2025 NCTA Conference. Her contributions have advanced the program's commitment to volunteerism and social impact. Beyond her achievements, Carrie is recognized for her professionalism, reliability, and genuine passion for service. Her ability to support the leadership with empathy and integrity has inspired peers and enhanced the effectiveness of the committee. In recognition of her outstanding efforts, collaborative spirit, and unwavering commitment to the mission of NCTA, and the Mentorship Program Carrie is highly deserving of this recognition.

Lisa Borre
Grants Program Committee Member

Lisa Borre serves as a member of the NCTA Grants Committee. She was instrumental in the transformation of the Grants Program into a model of collaboration and efficiency. Over the last nine months, Lisa's contribution to the team has redefined the committee's purpose, established new operating structures, and delivered measurable impacts across NCTA. During the 2025-2026 grant cycle, the committee completed the program's full round of applications, funding two projects and improving to the program by posting helpful and informative information to the Program's webpage. The committee streamlined workflows with a shared Google Drive repository, updated key documents, and increased engagement by presenting in the 2025 NCTA Conference Grant Proposal track. Together, the committee balanced professionalism, fairness, and genuine enthusiasm, with each contributing equally while fostering a positive and high-performance team culture. Their shared commitment to excellence has strengthened the integrity, visibility, and future sustainability of NCTA's Grants Program.

Nominate a testing pro, volunteer, or program for the **2026 NCTA Awards!** 🏆

 **Deadline: June 1, 2026**

 **Submit here:** <https://www.ncta-testing.org/awards>

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>

- **Protect NCTA's 501(c) (3) nonprofit status with the IRS. Is your listserv discussion an Antitrust Violation for the NCTA Organization?**
- Be aware of organized efforts through discussions by NCTA members directed at a company or organization that could be perceived as promoting a group boycott can be perceived as an Antitrust Violation.
- Discussion at NCTA meetings or in NCTA online community forums that could be perceived as attempts to establish uniform pricing (test fees for services offered, vendor fees remitted for proctoring services), or comparison of employee compensation based on positions or fields of employment.
- Continue to review your Membership in preparation for your Renewal in 2026, and make it a **Timely Event**. Avoid the headache of not being able to access your NCTA account. Remember to pay your membership dues before your account enters the Grace Period.
- Contact NCTA Finance by email at treasurer@ncta-testing.org for assistance or if you have questions or concerns involving fees and payments.



NCTA Grants Application Window Now Open



Need Help Funding Your Next Big Idea?

There's still time to invest in your ideas! The NCTA Grants Application window for the 2026–2027 grant year is now open with the grant submission **deadline of Friday, March 13, 2026**.


NCTA offers a variety of grant opportunities to support projects that move the field of testing and assessment forward. Whether you're launching a new initiative, advancing research, or investing in professional development, if securing funding is part of your 2026 goals, now is the perfect time to take the next step.

Need Help Turning Ideas into Funded Proposals?

The NCTA Grants Committee is hosting Virtual Q&A Office Hours. 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.


Upcoming Office Hours Topics:

Next Steps: Strengthening your proposal

 Friday, February 13, 2026 | 2–3:00 pm ET

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

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 and explore grant opportunities: [NCTA Grants Program webpage](#)

 Questions? Contact grants@ncta-testing.org



You're Invited to a SIG Coffee Date

Come and join the Equity & Access SIG at this month's Coffee Chat! Please feel free to bring any questions about equity, accommodations, universal access, and related topics for students with disabilities.

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 3 pm-4 pm EST

Focus: The SIG- Universal Access - will be highlighted during this Coffee Date

A zoom link will be sent closer to the coffee date

Online Learning SIG will be highlighted in June 2026

Management SIG will be highlighted in September 2026

Grab your coffee and come join us for relaxed conversation and collaboration!



Save the Date: Proctor Appreciation Week



Proctor Appreciation Week is coming up April 13–17, 2026!

It's our chance to give a big thank-you to the proctors and testing staff who keep exams running smoothly and support students every day. NCTA encourages everyone to take a moment this week to recognize and celebrate their proctors. More to come soon!

THE OPPOSITE OF CHEATING



Teaching for Integrity in the Age of AI

TRICIA BERTRAM GALLANT • DAVID RETTINGER

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.

Newly Certified and Recertified Test Centers

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED
AND RECERTIFIED TEST CENTERS

**Your hard work
is applauded.**

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

Recertifications

- Western Kentucky University
- Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

Initial Certifications

- University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

NCTA Volunteer Opportunities



NCTA thrives on member support, and several volunteer roles are now open for those ready to share their expertise and strengthen our community.

Conference App Committee Member

Professional Development | 11–25 hrs/month

Assist with setup and live management of the MobileUp conference app. Great for tech-savvy collaborators who can troubleshoot on the fly and help attendees during the event.

Test Center Certification Team Member

Professional Services | 5–10 hrs/month

Review certification applications for accuracy and compliance, advise on standards, and work with the TCCC on process improvements.

Continuing Education Committee Member

Administration | 5–10 hrs/month

Evaluate CE submissions, confirm documentation, join monthly meetings, and help ensure consistent, high-quality CE reviews.

[Click here to apply today!](#)

Connect With Us:

If you have items to contribute to *Quick Bites* that are of benefit to all members of the NCTA organization, please share them with the Administration division chair at administration.division@ncta-testing.org.

