



Your NCTA Monthly Quick Bites for September 2026

This September, we come together not only to share what we know, but to inspire one another, strengthen our profession, and shape the future of testing.



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Sacramento, Here We Come!



The wait is almost over! The 2026 NCTA Annual Conference will take place September 14–17 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in downtown Sacramento. Testing professionals from across the country will come together to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and celebrate the important work happening throughout our profession.

Whether this is your first NCTA Conference or one of many, we hope you arrive ready to connect, participate, and be inspired. Sacramento is ready to welcome you!

Get a preview of what awaits and start getting excited by watching our [Welcome to Sacramento video](#).

Beyond the Sessions: Special Conference Events



The 2026 NCTA Annual Conference offers plenty of opportunities to explore Sacramento, connect with colleagues, and have some fun outside the educational sessions.

On Monday, September 14, attendees can tour the Testing Center at California State University, Sacramento. Alan Dixon-Hurd and Michael Smith will provide a behind-the-scenes look at a center that serves a campus of 32,000 students and proctors approximately 15,000 exams annually. Register through the Conference Registration Form.

Ready for an adventure? Join the Sacramento Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday, September 16, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Teams will explore local landmarks, solve clues, and compete for prizes during this approximately two-mile walking activity. Registration is \$15, and participation is limited to 40 people. [Register for the scavenger hunt.](#)

Dinner groups will also be offered Tuesday through Thursday, with a variety of Asian, American, Mexican, and vegetarian-friendly options. Check the NCTA Conference App for restaurant choices, locations, and sign-up information.

Finally, watch for five social media games each day! Kate Laws has created fun, interactive ways to share your conference experience and compete for prizes. Details will be available in the NCTA Conference App.

The NCTA Conference App Is Coming Soon!



If you are attending the conference, make sure you download the conference app before attending. The Conference app will provide attendees the opportunity to see the full schedule, bookmark sessions you want to attend, see the exhibitors with contact information, communicate with other attendees, and participate in the Social Media Games. The NCTA

Conference app will be live by September 8. The “Know Before You Go” email will provide information about how to download the app.

[NCTA App Download and Login Instructions](#)

NCTA Mentorship Program



We're ready for this year's NCTA Conference and we hope to see you there.

Join us for the session on the Mentorship Program

Putting the Me in Mentor: How the NCTA Mentorship Program Turns Personal Growth into Professional Power

 September 17

 9:00–10:30 AM

 Meeting Room 1

Looking to grow professionally while making a greater impact in your testing center? Join us for an engaging introduction to the NCTA Mentorship Program and discover how mentorship can drive both personal and professional success.

Learn how adult learning principles empower mentees to build on their experience, develop skills when needed, and tackle real-world challenges. Explore the mentor's role as a facilitator who guides growth and supports meaningful learning.

Participants will apply these concepts to a challenge from their own testing center, gaining practical strategies to strengthen expertise, build capacity, and support ongoing professional development.

You'll Leave With:

- ✓ A better understanding of the NCTA Mentorship Program
- ✓ Practical mentor-mentee strategies grounded in adult learning
- ✓ Insight into solving workplace challenges through mentorship
- ✓ Tools to support sustainable professional growth

Invest in yourself. Empower others. Discover the power of mentorship. 🌟

We'll see you on September 17 in Meeting Room 1!

From the Desk of the Chair, Finance Division

- FY2027 fiscal year is here! New \$funds\$ are now available!

- Annual NCTA Tax Preparation for FY2026 has begun - Active term Board Members' participation encouraged.
 - REMINDER. NCTA payment options have changed.
 - - NCTA no longer accepts payment by checks. Processing time results in delays.
 - Purchase Orders are no longer accepted or processed.
- Want to know the current payment options? You can pay by credit card or debit card, ACH or EFT bank drafts.
- How can you find information about NCTA ACH and EFT enrollment information? Contact NCTA Finance by emailing treasurer@ncta-testing.org
- Save Time getting answers to finance and funding related questions. Here are a few reasons to contact Finance or the Treasurer directly.
 - - Questions regarding fee changes AND payment options
 - Change of payment methods
 - Completion of Vendor Payment Forms to conduct financial services with NCTA
 - Renewal of Vendor Payment Forms to continue financial services with NCTA
- Reminder: If you have questions or concerns involving fees and payments, contact NCTA Finance by emailing treasurer@ncta-testing.org for assistance.

**GREAT IDEAS
DON'T FUND
THEMSELVES.
WE CAN HELP.**



NCTA GRANTS PROGRAM

Let Us Help Take
the **\$ting** Out of
Funding Your Next
NCTA-Sponsored
Event or Project!

WHAT COULD YOU DO
WITH GRANT FUNDING?



CONDUCT
RESEARCH



DEVELOP
RESOURCES



HOST PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOPS



ORGANIZE
A MINI
CONFERENCE



LAUNCH NEW
OR INNOVATIVE
PROJECTS



DATE
Thursday,
September 17, 2026



TIME
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM



ROOM
A08 + A09

The **NCTA Grants Program** provides funding opportunities that advance the testing profession by supporting:

- ✓ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ✓ RESOURCES FOR NCTA MEMBERS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
- ✓ RESEARCH PERTINENT TO TESTING
- ✓ AND **YOU**—OUR MEMBERS!

Join the **NCTA GRANTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**
for an interactive session where we'll:

- Share funding opportunities and eligibility details
- Highlight successful grant projects and impact
- Walk through the application process
- Answer your questions and help you shape your idea



**YOUR IDEA.
OUR SUPPORT.
A STRONGER
TESTING
PROFESSION.**

DON'T LEAVE YOUR NEXT GREAT IDEA UNFUNDED.

Come discover how the Grants Program
can turn your vision into a **funded reality**.



**BE PART OF
WHAT'S NEXT.**



FACILITATED BY THE NCTA GRANTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Working together to invest in innovation, advance our profession,
and support the NCTA community.

Connect and Collaborate at the SIG Coffee Dates



Looking for an opportunity to have meaningful conversations with colleagues who share your interests? Make plans to attend one of the Special Interest Group (SIG) Coffee Dates at this year's conference. These informal, participant-driven sessions provide a welcoming space to ask questions, discuss challenges, exchange practical solutions, and learn from the experiences of other testing professionals.

On Wednesday, September 16, the Online Learning and Equity and Access SIGs will host a joint discussion focused on virtual assessment, online proctoring, accessibility, and equitable testing practices.

On Thursday, September 17, the Emergency Planning and Management SIG will lead a conversation about best practices for preparing for and responding to emergencies in testing centers.

Both sessions are open to all NCTA professionals—whether you are already involved with a SIG or simply interested in the topic. Bring your questions, experiences, and a willingness to connect!

View the complete [2026 conference schedule](#) for times and locations.

NCTA Certified Proctors: Collect Your Conference Patch!

NCTA Certified Proctors attending this year's Annual Conference can collect a special 2026 conference patch! To receive the patch, you must attend the conference and have already passed the NCTA Certified Proctor Exam.

This exclusive patch design will change each year, giving certified proctors a new collectible to look forward to at every conference.

Patches will be distributed on Tuesday, September 15, during the Exhibit Hall Social. Be sure to stop by and collect yours!



Proctor Certification Window Now Open



Register for the October 2026 Proctor Certification Window

- Registration Deadline: September 3, 2026
- Accommodation Request Deadline: August 19, 2026

Please see this website for more details and to register: <https://www.ncta-testing.org/proctor-certification>.

Newly Certified and Recertified Test Centers

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

Initial Certifications

- West Piedmont Higher Education King Hall
 - Western Oklahoma State College
 - IT Academy PRO
- East Carolina University Testing Center

Recertifications

- Calhoun Community College
- Vancouver Island University
- University of Arkansas - Fayetteville & Razorback Road

- Georgia Southern University- Statesboro



Interested in Volunteering?

Looking for a meaningful way to get more involved with NCTA?

Volunteers help shape the future of our association while building leadership skills, expanding their professional network, and giving back to the testing community. Explore current volunteer opportunities and find a role that's right for you!

View the NCTA Volunteer Jobs Board:

<https://ncta.memberclicks.net/ncta-volunteer-jobs-board>.



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.



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