



Your NCTA Monthly Quick Bites for January 2026

“Behind every exam is a learner who chose to show up. Our work is making sure that effort is met with fairness, integrity, and care.”



[Call for Proposals](#) [NCTA Shout Outs](#) [NCTA Grants Program](#) [Finance Division SIG](#) [Coffee Date](#) [Test Center Certification](#) [NCTA Digest](#) [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Only 30 days left to submit your NCTA Program Session Proposals—deadline February 1!

This is your moment to inspire your colleagues and help shape the conversation at the 2026 NCTA National Conference. Share your expertise, highlight your innovative practices, and spark meaningful dialogue on topics like testing operations, staffing, office management, accommodated testing, emerging technologies, and more.

Not sure about presenting solo? Pair up with a coworker or connect with another testing professional—collaborative presentations are always welcome, and there’s no shortage of colleagues excited to team up and create something great.

Don’t miss your chance to contribute to the field and spotlight the incredible work happening in testing centers across the country.

Submit your proposal today: [2026 NCTA Program Proposal Form](#)



Shout Outs!

Marc Alain Patrick Louchez
Grants Program Committee/Co-Chair

Marc Alain Patrick Louchez Co-Chairs the NCTA Grants Committee collaboratively supported by the team members. With the shared responsibility this team has transformed the Grants Program into a model of collaboration and efficiency. Over the last nine months, 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 transparency to the program by posting helpful and informative information to the Program's webpage. He guided the team as they streamlined workflows with a shared Google Drive repository, updated key documents, and increased engagement by presenting in the 2025 NCTA Conference Grant Proposal track. Marc's co-leadership was instrumental in balancing the team's professionalism, fairness, and genuine

enthusiasm, with each contributing equally while fostering a positive and high-performance team culture. His commitment to excellence has strengthened the integrity, visibility, and future sustainability of NCTA's Grants Program.

Helen Scott

Grants Program Committee/Member

Helen Scott 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, Helen'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>

New Year, New Funding 🎉 | NCTA Grants Application Window Opens January 5







Start 2026 by investing in your ideas! The NCTA Grants Application for the 2026–2027 grant year opens January 5, 2026, and closes March 13, 2026.

NCTA offers a range of grant opportunities to support projects that move the field of testing and assessment forward - whether that's launching something new, advancing research, or funding professional development. If "secure funding" is on your New Year goals list, now's the time to start planning.

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. Pop in anytime and stay 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

Let's turn great ideas into funded initiatives in 2026!  

From the Desk of the Chair, Finance Division

- Reminder: NCTA W-9 Form Update Release – 1 February 2026
- Need help changing your payment option or establishing ACH or EFT payment process for your institution? Contact NCTA Finance by emailing treasurer@ncta-testing.org
- Membership Renewal. It's time to review your membership status for 2026. Make this a timely event.
- Avoid the headache of not being able to access your NCTA account.
- Pay your membership dues before your account enters the Grace Period.
- Here's what you need to know about your membership dues status.
- Your membership renewal date is on the 12-month anniversary of your NCTA enrollment date.

- You will receive membership renewal notices every 30 days for 60 days prior to your membership expiration.
- Once your membership expires, it will enter the **Graced Period** for payment submission on the 1st day following your membership expiration
- Your membership will be kept in the Graced Period for no more than 30 days, at which time your membership will become **Lapsed** and you will immediately lose access to your NCTA account.
- Unable to Access an Open Invoice?

Email treasurer@ncta-testing.org for assistance if you have questions or concerns involving fees and payments.



You're Invited to a SIG Coffee Date

February 19th, 2026 3 pm EST via ZOOM

Special Interest Group "Coffee Date" - highlighted SIG: Universal Access

Grab your coffee, come join us, and collaborate through casual conversation with the NCTA SIG Leaders!

Thank you to all who attended the recent NCTA Special Interest Group Coffee Date in October 2025 which highlighted the **Emergency Preparedness SIG!**

Mark your calendar and join us for the Next Coffee Date:

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!



Newly Certified and Recertified Test Centers



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

Recertifications

- Odessa College

- San Juan College
- Illinois Central East Peoria

NCTA Digest

The NCTA Digest Editor, Eric Jensen, is seeking assistant editors to support the editing and layout of the Digest, published twice a year. If you're interested in contributing your skills, please visit the [NCTA Volunteer Jobs Board](#) to access the application.

We also encourage you to begin thinking about content you might like to share—articles, summaries, book reviews, or opinion pieces are all welcome. A formal call for submissions will be distributed via the NCTA Listserv during the spring semester.



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.

