



## Your NCTA Monthly Quick Bites for May 2026

“Just like spring reveals what’s been growing beneath the surface, testing helps us see the progress that’s been there all along.”



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## NCTA Conference Registration is Open!



Join us in Sacramento from September 14-17, 2026, for the 27th annual NCTA Conference—where connection, innovation, and professional growth come together.

🕒 Early Bird Registration: \$550 (through June 19)  
After June 19, registration increases to \$600—so be sure to secure your spot early!

[Register Here](#)

### **Highlights of the conference:**

Educational Session information will be available on the website this month. Look for the email with all the educational session information added to the Conference website.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Bitá Rivas, Counselor Education Program Coordinator at California State University, Sacramento. Her work highlights the intersection of assessment, student well-being, and ethical practice—emphasizing the importance of trauma-informed, supportive testing environments. Dr. Rivas' dynamic and engaging presentation will inform and equip participants with knowledge and resources to help support the well-being of examinees and staff members in high-stakes testing environments.

**Capnote Panel:** Dr. Cindy James, Dr. Jim Wollack, Dr. Sara Rieder Bennett, and Jarret Dyer will discuss Lessons Learned from Decades of Experience in the Assessment Field. This engaging discussion will allow attendees to “Ask the Experts” and cover topics from valuable lessons learned, change management, networking, and professional acumen.

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: Kathleen Laws**  
**Position/Institution: Membership Engagement**

Kathleen has been working as the Social Media Chair since September 2025. She has been working in the Lewis-Clark State College Center for Accessibility and Services for eleven years. Her favorite part of her job is getting to know the students and community members who come into the center. Outside of work, Kate loves reading, crafting, singing, and participating in her local civic theatre. She is the lead singer for a cover band, Redheaded Stepchild, with her husband, Rick, playing bass. She is looking forward to taking pictures at the upcoming conference and getting people active in conference activities in Sacramento.

**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](mailto:awards@ncta-testing.org).

## Airline Discounts to Sacramento



Thank you to our president-elect, Jan Gonzalez, who worked with several major airlines to receive a discount for our members to travel to Sacramento this year. Take advantage of the discounts on one of the airlines listed below. The information is on the NCTA Conference website.

### Southwest Airlines

- Discounts on eligible fares for reservations booked 12/15/25 through 9/11/26 for travel between 9/11/26 and 9/20/26.
- Travelers use the company ID below to receive 25% more Rapid Rewards bonus points on qualifying flights.
  - Book through [SWABIZ](#) using the Company ID: 90121566.

### United Airlines

- Discounts on eligible fares booked from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026; discounts dependent upon fare class booked.
  - Book through [United for Business](#) and use code: ZS8D706077.
    - For booking assistance by phone, call 800-426-1122.
      - Booking fees are waived.

### Delta Airlines

- Discounts offered on eligible flights between September 9-22, 2026
  - Book through [Delta Business](#)...enter code NY4FP.
  - For booking assistance by phone, contact 1-800-328-1111.
    - Booking fees are waived.

**From the Desk of the Chair, Finance Division**

- **NCTA 2026 W-9 Form** available to members. Visit <https://www.ncta-testing.org/ncta-w-9>
- **Keep your eyes on the membership expiration date.** Pay your membership dues before your account enters the **Grace Period**.
  - Have you reviewed 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. **For institutional memberships**, the designated key contact can follow the steps above to locate the renewal invoice.
  - **What are the payment options?** You can pay by credit card or debit card, ACH or EFT bank drafts.
  - **Where can I find our institutional membership's paid invoice?** Contact the institution's **key contact** for your institution's membership.
- **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](mailto:treasurer@ncta-testing.org) for assistance.



**We're in the final stages of the 2026 Grant Cycle**



- **What's Next:** We're in the final stages of the 2026 cycle:
  - Final reviews are underway
  - Recommendations to the Governing Board: Mid May
    - Decisions expected: Early June
    - **Award announcements: June 12, 2026**
    - Funding distribution: Late June
- **A big thank you** to our applicants and reviewers.

If you're thinking about applying in the future, it's never too early to start shaping your idea. Clear outcomes, a realistic plan, and alignment with NCTA priorities go a long way.

If you're thinking about applying in the future, it's never too early to start shaping your idea. Clear outcomes, a realistic plan, and alignment with NCTA priorities go a long way. We'll continue building resources to support you along the way.

Learn more about the Grants Program and explore grant opportunities: Visit [NCTA Grants Program webpage](#). Questions? Contact [grants@ncta-testing.org](mailto:grants@ncta-testing.org)

### **SIG Coffee Date**

Thank you so much to those 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!



### **Conference Volunteers & Moderators Needed - Be Part of the Experience!**

A great conference doesn't just happen - it's powered by our members. That's where you come in!

When you register, you'll have the opportunity to sign up as a Conference Volunteer, Session Moderator, or both. These roles are a fantastic way to get involved, meet colleagues, and make the most of your conference experience.

#### **What's the difference?**

##### **◇ Conference Volunteers**

Help bring the event to life by supporting key moments throughout the conference—assisting with general session setup, lending a hand at the NCTA booth, and helping with conference setup and wrap-up.

##### **◇ Session Moderators**

Play an important role in our educational sessions by introducing speakers, keeping sessions on track, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. Moderators will receive guidance, attend a brief virtual orientation, and be supported with materials onsite.

Whether you're new to NCTA or looking to deepen your involvement, these roles are a great way to connect, contribute, and enhance your conference experience.

## Ready to jump in?

Be sure to select “yes” when registering—you’re welcome to sign up for both opportunities!

## Proctor Certification Window Now Open



Register for the October 2026 Proctor Certification Window

- Registration Open: June 29, 2026
- 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.

### Recertifications

- Miami Dade College - Hialeah Campus
  - York Technical College
  - Columbus State University

- St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley
  - Miami Dade College - West Campus
  - Miami Dade College - North Campus

## **Final NCTA Journal Published**

As we publish our final NCTA Journal, we extend our deepest gratitude to Editorial Board members from 2015–2026. Your commitment, expertise, and passion have shaped a meaningful body of work that has advanced our profession and supported our community in countless ways. The impact of your service will continue to resonate for years to come.

Our final article, [“Patterns and Trends of Perceived Testing Irregularities Experienced by University-Based Testing Centers”](#) highlights the meaningful research shared throughout the journal’s history. We encourage you to take time for professional development by engaging with this insightful research, as well as the many valuable contributions published throughout the journal’s history.

While this chapter comes to a close, a new opportunity begins. We invite our members to carry this legacy forward through the NCTA Digest—continuing to share experiences, research, perspectives, and best practices with the association. Your voice and involvement are essential to this next phase.

Please consider submitting a volunteer form today to support the NCTA Digest and help shape the future of our shared work.



**NCTA Volunteer Opportunities – Available Positions**



NCTA is seeking volunteers for several open roles across our divisions—your participation is essential to keeping our programs strong and supporting fellow members.

Open positions include:

- Conference App Committee Member (Professional Development Division) – Help manage and support the MobileUp conference app.
  - Test Center Certification Team Member (Professional Services Division) – Review certification applications for compliance.
- Continuing Education (CE) Committee Member (Administration Division) – Evaluate CE submissions and uphold certification standards.
- NCTA Digest Assistant (Professional Development Division) – Support writing, editing, and publishing the Digest.

Thank you to those who have already stepped up—we still need more members to get involved.

[Click here to apply today!](#)

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#### 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.



