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CITA PRESS RELEASE - August 2006

CITA Increases Membership and Recognizing Jurisdictions

On July 15, 2005, members of the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners and the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners formed the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) as a collaborative effort to provide clinical dental and dental hygiene licensure examination administrative services. Since CITA's date of incorporation, CITA is pleased to announce that Alabama and Louisiana have joined as members and Puerto Rico is in contract negotiations.

CITA will begin administering the traditional examinations in Alabama in June of 2007 and the Curriculum Integrated Format Examination (CIF) in the Fall of 2007. Due to the remaining devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the renovations involved with LSU School of Dentistry, Louisiana will begin giving the CITA Curriculum Integrated Format Examination (CIF) in the Fall of 2007.

In addition to the member states of CITA (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina), **Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Puerto Rico and West Virginia** recognize the results of the CITA examination for dental and dental hygiene licensure. CITA is optimistic more states will begin recognizing the CITA examination for licensure in the near future.

CITA Curriculum Integrated Format Examination

CITA has completed its inaugural Curriculum Integrated Format Examination (CIF) for the 2005-2006 Examination Series. The examinations were conducted at UMC School of Dentistry in Jackson, Mississippi and the UNC School of Dentistry in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. For the initial Manikin-Based Examinations that were offered in October of 2005, there were forty-three (43) candidates examined at UMC School of Dentistry and seventy-six (76) examined at UNC School of Dentistry. UMC candidates had a 77% passing rate and UNC candidates had a 78% passing rate. Those candidates who were unsuccessful during these examinations were retested in December of 2005 and as a result of the retest examinations, UMC had a 99%, and UNC candidates had a 100% passing rate respectively.

In February of 2006, CITA administered the Periodontal & Restorative Examinations. There were thirty-six (36) candidates examined at UMC School of Dentistry and a total of seventy-eight (78) candidates examined at UNC School of Dentistry. For the Periodontal Examinations there was an overall passing rate of 100% at both UMC and UNC. For the Restorative Examination, UMC had an 83%, and UNC candidates achieved a passing rate of 80% respectively.

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For those candidates unsuccessful on the Manikin-Based Examinations and Restorative Examinations, retest examinations were offered in April 2006. There were seven (7) candidates examined at UMC and sixteen (16) candidates examined at UNC. Both UMC and UNC candidates had a 99% passing rate.

“It was a tremendous undertaking to be able to offer the Curriculum Integrated Format to this year’s class” said Dr. Delma Kinlaw, CITA President, “but this was such a significant advancement in clinical testing and licensure, that we believed if there was any way possible it should be offered to the students for this year’s class”. Dr. Kinlaw went on to say, “We knew there would be some initial hurdles and obstacles to overcome, and as with any new process, some administrative tweaking as the examination process continued throughout the year. Having this year completed and the opportunity to reflect on what had to be accomplished to make this a reality, we are all extremely pleased.”

CITA Technology

CITA’s database developer, Mr. Vincent Miranda has worked closely with Celeste Kohler, CITA’s Administrator, in addressing the current and future database needs of CITA. He has developed a remarkable database that enables Ms. Kohler to scan in grade sheets on-site and produce overall candidate examination results instantaneously. The database is also capable of doing real-time post-exam analysis on the scores given by examiners utilized during the examination. “I am very proud of the progress that CITA has made with its database. I am able to have the results ready before we leave an examination site, which enables me to get the results to candidates in a remarkably short period of time,” said Ms. Kohler. Ms. Kohler also went on to say, “I don’t believe that any other testing agencies have real-time post-exam analysis built into their database systems. This feature allows us to assess the performance of our graders while the scores are being tabulated on-site during the examination. “I know that in the past, post-exam analysis reports were calculated by hand and this took several weeks to several months to produce the end-results. With our database, CITA can do it instantly saving staff time and CITA expenses. I think we have a remarkable database and we have designed it so that it can grow as CITA grows.”

CITA Examiners

The CITA examination will utilize licensed dentists and dental hygienists from CITA states as graders. There are extensive training sessions that all graders are required to attend to assure that the graders understand and can properly apply the criteria upon which grades are to be given. These calibration sessions are typically held the day prior to the examination. Dr. Stan Hardesty, CITA Secretary related that, “Everyone in CITA is extremely appreciative of the efforts of Dr Wyck Neely, previously of the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners, for his work on developing the calibration exercises for CITA.” “Dr. Neely has been involved in clinical testing for a number of years and his contributions have been tremendous.”

CITA Annual Meeting

CITA will be holding its annual meeting in Atlanta on August 11th and 12th and is expected to be well attended. “One of the agenda items” stated Dr. Tommy O’Brien, CITA Examination Chairman, “will be to review and approve changes for the new examination cycle. Much of the criteria and scoring rubric developed by CITA has evolved as part of the previous meeting of measurement specialists and subject matter experts who met nationally during the initial meetings of the American Board of Dental Examiners. Now having a year to evaluate that scoring system and criteria, we believe the examination process can be improved and the criteria better stated for the students and graders alike. We are very excited about the changes being proposed by the Examination Committee for the upcoming year.”