



National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction *Bulletin*

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“Translating noncollegiate learning into college credit recommendations while increasing access to Higher Education for working adults”

What is the National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction?

Created in 1973 as a program of the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, the National Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction (**National PONSI**) evaluates courses and examination programs offered by noncollegiate organizations nationwide and makes recommendations on their comparability to college-level instruction. These recommendations are then published in *College Credit Recommendations*, an electronic directory located on National PONSI's website (www.nationalponsi.org). Academic institutions around the country use this directory as a guide in awarding credit for learning experiences that take place outside of the college.

National PONSI makes it possible for participants in courses or programs (including classroom-based instruction, online and distance learning, and proficiency examinations) to earn college credit at many colleges and universities.

The Program counts among its member organizations some of the best known names in America – including Citibank, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, the New York City Police Department and Xerox Corporation - as well as many professional associations, labor unions, government agencies, hospitals, and proprietary schools.

Credit Recommendations Encourage College Enrollment for Working Adults

College officials interested in attracting working adults appreciate that credit recommendations are often the impetus for individuals to consider pursuing a college degree. Colleges also recognize that even when students come with credit recommendations, the vast majority of the credits for their degrees will be earned through the college.

Become a Cooperating College!

Nearly 1,500 colleges throughout the United States enjoy the benefit. Phone, fax or e-mail National PONSI to find out how! If your institution is already listed – check it out and keep it current! (www.nationalponsi.org/colleges/list_of_colleges.htm)

Would you like to see your logo here and on our website?

Reach Out to Prospective Students.



An Invitation to post your Logo and Profile on the National PONSI Website

In an era of ever increasing competition, your logo and a profile of your institution on National PONSI's website (www.nationalponsi.org) can be an important resource in attracting nontraditional students – now estimated to make up more than 45% of all college students. Both your logo and profile are hyperlinked to your institution's own website allowing for easy access for viewers and prospective students.

Our fee schedule is as follows:

- Institutional Logo on National PONSI's home page \$1,000 annually (size similar to logos above)
- 350 word Profile \$400 annually (see list on p. 3)
- 700 word Profile \$500 annually

Family Development Credential Empowers Participants and Families They Serve

Due to the constraints of time and schedules, National PONSI staff does not often have the opportunity to interact with the students who benefit from our evaluations. Recently, however, Sheila Morrone, Director of National PONSI, had the occasion to attend the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) Self-Sufficiency Awards ceremony during an evaluation site visit to CAAP.

More than thirty individuals and their families were honored for moving out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. Their pride and sense of accomplishment was evident by the smiles and hugs exchanged between the awardees and their Family Workers.

Family Workers enroll in the Family Development Credential program (FDC), which National PONSI has evaluated and recommended for seven semester hours of credit. The various states involved in overseeing this program have included: Pennsylvania, who underwent a successful review during the visit, as well as Alabama, California, Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey and New York. The program espouses a paradigm shift from a deficit model of interacting with families in need to a strengths-based model that respects that families do best when they are empowered as partners in determining their long-term goals.

Serendipitously, the goals of empowerment have had lasting effects on the Family Workers, themselves, many of whom are often one paycheck from catastrophe and from requiring the services they help access for the families they are assisting. Thousands of participants across the seven states have earned their credential and qualified for the credit recommendation. In turn, many are now empowered to pursue their dream of a college degree, as evidenced by the efforts underway at the various state agencies to forge articulation agreements with local and national colleges and universities. College officials interested in exploring such agreements can view contact information for these agencies and a fuller description of the FDC program through our online directory at www.nationalponsi.org/ccr/ccr_online_listings.htm

Reasons to Partner with National PONSI: Promoting mutually beneficial arrangements between noncollegiate organizations and academic institutions

Benefits to Colleges

- Reliable academic standards on which to make credit decisions
- Savings of time, money and personnel
- Increased enrollments / new student market
- Motivated and serious students
- Legitimacy for courses awarded credit
- Jumping off point for further cooperation/ communication with noncollegiate organizations

Benefits to Noncollegiate Organizations

- Increased employee morale
- Better performance during training and on the job
- Reduced tuition reimbursement expenditures
- Probability that degrees pursued will be job related
- Opportunity for employees to complete degrees more quickly
- Recruiting tool
- Enhanced employee benefits package
- Possible employee tax savings
- Credibility
- Feedback on training programs from professionals in the field

Do you know of an organization currently offering a learning experience that might possibly qualify for a credit recommendation?

Pass this newsletter on to them or have them contact National PONSI at natponsi@mail.nysed.gov

Introducing the Person Behind the Voice

When you call National PONSI, Carol Creevy is the person behind the voice you hear at the other end of the line. As an Evaluation Associate, Carol takes many calls from adult learners wanting to know how National PONSI works.

Helping adult learners use *College Credit Recommendations (CCR) Online* is the fun part of Carol's job. Individuals calling our offices get so excited when they discover they have taken a learning experience that has a credit recommendation. Callers are thrilled to know that, when the National PONSI credit recommendations are accepted by their college, they have credits they can use toward the degree they are seeking, or they may already have those last few credits they need to finish their degree.



Carol came to National PONSI in 2004, after a period as a stay-at-home mom. Being an active and present part of her daughter Hannah's life was very important to Carol. Her daughter is the joy of her life, and Carol can't believe Hannah is going off to college this fall! Prior to being at home, Carol worked at The Energy Association of New York State and also at the New York State Senate. Carol attended Lansing Community College and Katherine Gibbs School in Boston. Carol will have an empty nest next year and is thinking about becoming an "adult learner" herself!

College Credit Recommendations Directory

More than 30 years ago, National PONSI began publishing college credit recommendations to advise the academic community of credit-worthy learning experiences sponsored by noncollegiate organizations, first in its print-based publication, *College Credit Recommendations*, and in 2003, in its online version, *College Credit Recommendations (CCR) Online*. During most of this period, colleges and universities and other interested parties purchased National PONSI's publications to support its ongoing efforts to bring reliable and valid assessments of noncollegiate learning experiences to the attention of college officials and to assist them in determining how best to award college credit. In January 2005, National PONSI achieved a milestone and a long-desired goal by providing free and universal access to *CCR Online* to anyone, anywhere, at any time, wherever Internet access is available. (www.nationalponsi.org/ccr/ccr_online_listings.htm)

We believe this initiative will change the face of how college credit recommendations are used at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and overseas and will bring adult learners together with college degree programs in ways that we could not have envisioned under the limitations of a print-based service. Now, college officials can provide advisement to students in the office or at a distance, anywhere in the world, while both are referring to the same webpage.

These Colleges and Universities have Profiles on our Website that Highlight the Special Degree Options and Services They Offer to Working Adults and Nontraditional Students

[Arkansas State University](#)

State University, AR

[Bethel University](#)

St. Paul, MN

[Biola University](#)

La Mirada, CA

[Briarcliffe College](#)

Bethpage, NY

[California Coast University](#)

Santa Ana, CA

[Central Michigan University](#)

Mt. Pleasant, MI

[Charter Oak State College](#)

New Britain, CT

[Chestnut Hill College](#)

Philadelphia, PA

[Chicago State University](#)

Chicago, IL

[Cleveland Institute of Electronics](#)

Cleveland, OH

[Columbia Southern University](#)

Orange Beach, AL

[Delaware County Community College](#)

Media, PA

[Dowling College](#)

Oakdale, NY

[Empire State College
\(State University of New York\)](#)

Saratoga Springs, NY

[Excelsior College](#)

Albany, NY

[Golden Gate University](#)

San Francisco, CA

[Immaculata University](#)

Immaculata, PA

[Indiana University](#)

Bloomington, IN

[LaRoche College](#)

Pittsburgh, PA

[Manhattan College](#)

Riverdale, NY

[Marian College of Fond Du Lac](#)

Fond Du Lac, WI

[Marist College](#)

Poughkeepsie, NY

[Mercy College](#)

Dobbs Ferry, NY

[Molloy College](#)

Rockville Centre, NY

[Monmouth University](#)

West Long Branch, NJ

[Montana State University-Billings](#)

Billings, MT

[Northeastern University School of Professional
and Continuing Studies](#)

Boston, MA

[Nova Southeastern University](#)

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

[Nyack College](#)

Nyack, NY

[Oakland City University](#)

Oakland City, IN

[Saint Joseph's College of Maine](#)

Standish, ME

[Siena College](#)

Loudonville, NY

[Skidmore College - University Without Walls](#)

Saratoga Springs, NY

[Thomas Edison State College](#)

Trenton, NJ

[University of Baltimore](#)

Baltimore, MD

[University of New Orleans](#)

New Orleans, LA

[Viterbo University](#)

La Crosse, WI

[Western International University](#)

Phoenix, AZ

[Western New England College](#)

Springfield, MA

[Wilmington College](#)

New Castle, DE

[World College](#)

Virginia Beach, VA

Quote of the Month...

"Age is compulsory, wisdom is optional." Anonymous

National PONSI's Main Contacts

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