

—— CEO's Message ——

NACVA's CVA/AVA Designations Have Received the Prestigious NCCA Accreditation

Five years ago, intent on being able to validate to the valuation industry that NACVA's CVA and AVA credentials were the industry's most credible, we embarked on a search, and then a journey. First, we researched every organization that offered accreditation of certifications sponsored by other certifying organizations. We narrowed our focus to three organizations that we concluded were highly credible, internationally recognized, and held the highest standards. Subsequently, we settled on pursuing our accreditation with the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), through its division—the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

What followed turned out to be a rigorous and long, drawn-out process. This was because the NCCA's standards are quite comprehensive and force applicants to extensively document every facet of their certification program. Furthermore, to comply with the NCCA's standards required numerous changes to our existing processes, policies, and procedures centering upon our CVA/AVA designations, and how we were administering our programs.

The process took three and one-half years and involved the support and cooperation of many members: those at the Board level to enact policy changes and those at the Committee level conducting numerous focus groups to refine and statistically validate both our proctored multiple choice and case study exams, determine appropriate pass rates for each, refine the Case Study grading key, and define the minimum knowledge a candidate must possess for entry into this profession.

When I started down the path seeking NCCA accreditation, I vastly underestimated what it would take to earn this prestigious recognition. But I knew, in the end, it would be worth it because I wanted our members and the world to know that our CVA/AVA designations meet the highest standards for certification on the planet. And this has been validated and confirmed by an independent body, through a process of independent and unbiased peer review. This is a claim we can all boast about.

I must add, NACVA's CVA/AVA designations are the *only* NCCA-accredited valuation credentials.

Here are some notations you can use in your various communications and curriculum vitae to boast about this most prestigious recognition that squarely puts the CVA/AVA designations above all the rest:

- The CVA and AVA credentials are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)
- The CVA and AVA credentials are NCCA-accredited
- NACVA's CVA/AVA designations are accredited by the NCCA
- NCCA accreditation has been awarded to NACVA's CVA/AVA credentials

I have extracted, with permission, from the NOCA's website the following background information. You will note that many members are well-known within our circle, which is further acknowledgement of the influence NOCA plays within the professional community. I would assume that membership is indicative that most of these organizations *also* aspire to obtain their NCCA accreditation. But here, NACVA stands apart.

The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and its accrediting arm, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), provide certifying bodies with the resources necessary to build, maintain, and grow an effective certification program. These resources include educational events, networking opportunities, advocacy, and more. In addition, NOCA has an active voice on Capitol Hill and has provided expert testimony and guidance on specific issues. NOCA is represented on the Professional Certification Advisory Board (PCAB) and the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee (PCLAC).

Established in 1977 as a non-profit organization, NOCA's mission is to promote excellence in competency assessment for practitioners in all occupations and professions by providing expertise and guidance, educational and networking resources, and serving as an advocate on certification issues. NOCA has embraced its vision to enhance quality member benefits and resources so all certification organizations will join NOCA and aspire to NCCA accreditation of their certification programs. There are many benefits that NOCA provides to its members. But its most significant benefit is accrediting certification programs under the most rigorous Standards in the industry through its accrediting body, the NCCA.

NOCA also serves as an advocate and educator on state and federal certification issues and offers its members exclusive access to the NOCA listserv where members can receive free advice from other members in the certification industry. With over 380 members, NOCA's vision is to lead the global transformation to excellence in competency assessment.

Here is a sampling of NOCA's Organizational Members:

- Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation
- **American Institute of Certified Public Accountants**
- American Society for Association Executives
- APICS – The Association for Operations Management
- **Association for Financial Professionals**
- Association of Government Accountants
- **CFA Institute (formerly known as Association for Investment Management and Research)**
- Axiom Resource Management, Inc.
- Center for Credentialing and Education
- **Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.**
- Certified General Accountants Association of Canada
- Financial Planners Standards Council

- Financial Planning Standards Board
- Financial Planning Association of Australia
- Florida Certification Board
- Healthcare Financial Management Association
- Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation
- Institute of Business and Finance
- **Institute of Internal Auditors**
- Investment Management Consultants Association
- **National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts**
- Society of Certified Senior Advisors
- **Turnaround Management Association**

The NCCA, NOCA's accrediting body, is the international leader in setting quality standards for credentialing organizations and grants accreditation to those organizations that meet them by evaluating the certification organization for compliance with the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*. The NCCA uses a peer review process to: establish accreditation standards; evaluate compliance with the standards; recognize organizations/programs which demonstrate compliance; and serve as a resource on quality certification. The vision of NCCA is to set Standards which will be optimal and comprehensive criteria for organizational process and performance.

The certification by NCCA of specialized skill-sets affirms a knowledge and experience base for practitioners in a particular field, their employers, and the public at large. Certification represents a declaration of a particular individual's professional competence. In addition, the NCCA accreditation is a means of demonstrating to your board, your profession, and your certificants that your certification has been reviewed by a panel of impartial experts that have determined that your program has met the stringent standards of NCCA. To date, NCCA has accredited over 190 programs representing 78 organizations.

Here is a sampling of the NCCA Accredited Certification Organizations/Programs:

- American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics
- American Board for Occupational Health Nurses
- American College of Sports Medicine
- **Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.**
- Certified Mine Safety Professional Certification Board
- Competency & Credentialing Institute
- Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologies
- Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists
- Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

- **National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts**
- National Association of Forensic Counselors
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
- Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board