PUBLIC PROTECTION
THROUGH QUALITY CREDENTIALS®
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MISSION

The mission of the NCCAOM® is to assure the safety and well-being of the public and advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing.

VISION STATEMENT

Acupuncture and Oriental medicine provided by NCCAOM credentialed practitioners will be integral to healthcare and accessible to all members of the public.
CORE VALUES

TESTING EXCELLENCE
Our organizational mission drives us to produce valid and reliable measurements of competence of AOM practitioners who seek certification from us.

SERVICE
• Public Protection: We are committed to safeguarding the public from practitioners who have not demonstrated their competence.
• Public Benefit: We are committed to making available to the public reliable information that will help them to enjoy the benefits of health services from competent AOM practitioners.
• AOM Practitioners (Diplomates): We are committed to improving the reputation for excellence of AOM practitioners who have demonstrated competence through our certification processes.

INTEGRITY
We are committed to upholding basic societal norms of truthfulness and honesty in all our organizational words and deeds.

TRUST
We are committed to promoting an organizational environment that allows those who work for the NCCAOM to rely on one another to accomplish the tasks required by our mission. We maintain the same commitment in our joint activities with other organizations with whom we collaborate for the betterment of the AOM community.

LEADERSHIP
We are committed to acting responsibly to advance the interests of the AOM community through our certification process. We understand our leadership to be inseparable from our mission of service to the public and to the AOM community.

COMMUNITY
• Volunteerism: We are committed to engaging AOM practitioners in the activities necessary to keep our certification exams and processes relevant to the state of the art of AOM.
• Support: We are committed to being a responsible corporate member of the larger community in which we live.
In my studies of exceptional organizations and individuals, I have learned that we are all unique individuals with our bio-individuality, a trait long recognized by practicing acupuncturists. While there is much effort these past years at NCCAOM to “fit in” the healthcare systems, there is a continued awareness and recognition of “fitting out” or as we often refer to as “standing out”.

As we look back over the accomplishments of the NCCAOM during 2017, notably it was an important year for advancement of our Diplomates and an investment in our organizational infrastructure. We had a fresh focus on getting and keeping the right talent for the organization – volunteers, staff, consultants and vendors.

In 2015, the NCCAOM Board of Commissioners set forth an updated mission statement, vision statement, and strategic plan. This process resulted in a profound shift in thinking in how to best allocate resources for the organization based on our valued constituents – NCCAOM Diplomates. This was followed by an in-depth needs’ assessment of a segment of our Diplomates and volunteers consisting of focus groups and phone surveys to determine what NCCAOM services would be of value to them. The results of this assessment revealed that promoting the NCCAOM credentials and our Diplomates through a public education campaign as well as advocating for our Diplomates and NCCAOM certification in the federal and state regulatory arena was identified consistently as of utmost importance to our Diplomates. This information moved the NCCAOM to create a shift towards an ongoing public education program and the addition of advocacy services. Based on the desire to add these new activities, NCCAOM created an infrastructure reorganization plan designed to move from a more conventional management structure to create a hybrid staffing model to accommodate a distributive workforce, in order to maintain and attract the
best talent for the organization. Also, to shift more resources into technology to support remote workers and a paperless system of communication. In 2017 the staff and I worked to implement the January 1, 2018 move from our Jacksonville office to our new headquarters in downtown Washington DC.

As the CEO, I partnered with our Board of Commissioners to make a deliberate investment in what our Diplomates are ranking as the most important activities that will assist them to advance this medicine and concurrently advance their careers. The strategic implementation plan called for a shift of money and resources to the Public Education and Advocacy campaigns. The NCCAOM Vision 2020 Operational Plan, which was implemented in 2017, allowed the organization to begin this transition to provide more services to our Diplomates and with Public Education and Advocacy Campaigns by shifting resources and funds away from headquarter space and administration to these services. This plan was made possible through outsourcing more administrative and non-management staff functions to SmithBucklin’s association management company staff, to include: Customer Relations, Marketing & Communications, Professional Ethics and Discipline, and Government relations and Advocacy. As a result, we were able to relocate our office to their headquarters in Washington D.C. in January 2018.

The Vision 2020 Plan, established in 2017 enabled us to blend a dedicated NCCAOM management team with experienced association management staff and other outside consultants to create a more nimble, effective and efficient environment in which we can recruit the best talent to meet the needs of our Diplomates. Also, in 2017, we utilized the latest technology to create a paperless and green environment as we created online applications which resulted in eliminating all paper applications in November 2018, owing to the implementation of our new association management system.

Additionally, in 2017, we continued to work with our EchoMedia PR consultants, who began assisting the NCCAOM staff, in mid-2016 with public education and PR activities, as well as work with the SmithBucklin Advocacy and Government Relations Team and Public Relations and Marketing Team to focus more efforts on advocacy, rebranding and marketing. To see our new NCCAOM brand and to check out the progress on our Public Education and Advocacy Campaigns, please go to our website.

In our 2017 Milestones section of this Annual Report, you will find the achievements for 2017 to include providing support to Kansas and Wyoming with enacting legislation resulting in first practice acts. The NCCAOM provided both financial and staff support to the two state associations for this purpose. The NCCAOM Position on Trigger Point Acupuncture Dry Needling, which provided an additional tool to states that are dealing with the dry needling issue was also created in August 2017. Please go to the Milestones section of this report (page 14-15) for a comprehensive list of accomplishments.

With gratitude and appreciation.

Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., MT(ASCP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

NCCAOM Board of Commissioners Chair
Afua Bromley, MSOM, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)®

2017 RETROSPECTIVE: INERTIA AND EVOLUTION

The NCCAOM Board of Commissioners began its strategic planning process in 2016, but 2017 was the year of creating a more nimble NCCAOM, better able to serve the evolution of the profession also as it continued to maintain the stability of the organization.

The NCCAOM’s mission – to assure the safety and well-being of the public and to advance the professional practice of Acupuncture and Oriental medicine by establishing and promoting national evidence-based standards of competence and credentialing – continues to be the core lens with which the organization operates. The Board envisions a world in which acupuncture and Oriental/East Asian medicine would be considered part of the normal standard of care and NCCAOM Board-Certified and licensed acupuncturists viewed as the experts and providers of that care. The beauty and challenge of all strategic plans came with creating a roadmap for it.

Throughout 2017, the NCCAOM expanded its role in supporting state associations and other organizations that work to support and promote NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists and the advancement of the profession. We used a small surplus from profits earned from NCCAOM’s prudent reserve to support Kansas and Wyoming’s first licensing law and promulgation of the rules and regulations. We continued to work with the California Acupuncture Board for the adoption of the NCCAOM exams and promote NCCAOM National Board Certification. Truly embracing a unified national high minimum standard of competency allowed for more meaningful strategy and conversation with Federal agencies, large businesses, insurance companies, etc., to potentially expand employment opportunities for Diplomates.

The NCCAOM, through the NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates, continued to seek a seat on the AMA CPT Advisory Committee through its Coding Subcommittee (HCPCS). We held institutional positions with interdisciplinary organizations such as the IHPC (Integrative Health Policy Consortium)
and ACIH (Academic Consortium of Integrative Healthcare). NCCAOM began to implement many of the expanded NCCAOM Diplomate advocacy and public education initiatives based on the needs assessment in 2016 - strategically pursuing media coverage at national and local levels for Diplomates and the profession. This advocacy also included participation in global events and reinforcing global connections such as the TCM Congress and Tri-Continental Meeting (Europe/Australia-New Zealand/Americas) in Rothenberg, Germany, and ISO/ TC249 (International Standard of Organization – Traditional Chinese Medicine), that have a direct or indirect impact on NCCAOM Diplomates.

National board certification, the stability of the NCCAOM, and its reputation for high standards has been a boon and blessing for our profession. Self-regulation of an industry – while challenging and sometimes fraught with internal disagreements – is the hallmark of a mature profession. Recognition by the BLS (Bureau of Labor and Statistics) has opened the doors for more job opportunities (from the VA and DOD). The Job Analysis (JA) Survey instrument that over 3000 practitioners participated in Summer 2017 was used to create the next content outline for board exams. The NCCAOM continues to hold its standards for excellence in continuing to maintain its own NCCA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) certification. Each Certification NCCAOM offers – Acupuncture, Chinese Herbs, and Oriental Medicine was reaccredited by NCA during our 2017 reaccreditation process. The NCCA Certification Accreditation Standards were developed to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public. They highlight the essential elements of a high-quality program. The Safe Chinese Herbal Compounding and Dispensing COQ Taskforce was created in 2017 out of the desire of many (Chinese) herbal companies, practitioners, and educators to self-regulate and address safety concerns, and lack of compliance with 2008 FDA regulations for good manufacturing practices in individual clinics. Based on the white paper and guidelines created by the American Herbal Products Association, the creation of this voluntary certificate of safe practice is the hallmark of good governance by a mature profession.

As we continue to transform our structural organization to encompass not only our assessment and development, we allow for growth and evolution within our scope and vision.

Dedicated staff, amazing volunteers, tireless Commissioners and a talented CEO have contributed a stable credential that has gained our profession increasing recognition and creates inertia towards our evolutionary goals.

Wishing you continued prosperity and peace,

Afua Bromley, MSOM, L.Ac., Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM) Chair, NCCAOM Board of Commissioners
The 2017 Board of Commissioners was composed of ten Commissioners, which included seven Professional members, three Public members, and a non-voting Chief Executive Officer. Below are the members of the 2017 NCCAOM Board of Commissioners.
2017 NCCAOM STAFF

(1) Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., CAE
   Chief Executive Officer

(2) Mina Larson, M.S., MBA, CAE
   Deputy Executive Director

(3) Irene Basore
   Director, Finance & Administration

(4) James McHugh, MSIA
   Director, Information Technology Systems

(5) Jennifer Nemeth, M.Ed.
   Director, Continuing Education

(6) Rachael Tan, Ph.D.
   Director, Credentialing and Testing

(7) Olga Cox
   Director, Communications and Customer Relations

(8) Mark Garcia
   IT Support Analyst

(9) Melissa Dow
   Executive Assistant

(10) Ruosi Lee, MSIOM
    PDA Assistant

(11) Victor Lugo
    Office Administrator

(12) Ameera Ayubi
    Credentialing Manager

(13) Rick Robbins
    Controller

(14) Tracey Cummings
    Certification Services Coordinator

(15) Heidi Wingate
    Certification Services Coordinator

Pamela Frommelt, M.S.*
Certification Exam Development & Assessments Specialist

Yvonne Sanders, M.S.*
Certification Exam Development & Database Specialist

Elizabeth Reed*
Customer Service Representative

*Photo not included
2017 GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Afua Bromley, Chair
Eugene London, Vice-Chair
Steve Kazmierczak, Treasurer
Carl Jew, Secretary
Kory Ward-Cook, CEO
Denise Hsu
Iman Majd
Matthew Stanley
Zonglan Xu
Janet Zand
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
Melissa Dow, Staff Support

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Afua Bromley, Chair
Eugene London, Vice-Chair
Steve Kazmierczak, Treasurer
Carl Jew, Secretary
Kory Ward-Cook, CEO
Iman Majd, Member-at-Large
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE
Steve Kazmierczak, Chair
Carl Jew
Eugene London
Matthew Stanley
Janet Zand
Afua Bromley, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
Irene Basore, Staff Support

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Carl Jew, Chair
Zonglan Xu
Eugene London
Afua Bromley, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
Irene Basore, Staff Support

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
Michael Taromina, Chair
Scott Cormier
Cathy Goldstein
Valerie Hobbs
Matthew Stanley, Board Liaison
Lisa Sumption
Kimberley Woo, Guest
Erica Klein (SmithBucklin), Staff Liaison
Lindsey Flick (SmithBucklin), Staff Support
Mina Larson, Staff Support

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE
Zonglan Xu, Chair
Christine Chang
Denise Hsu
Gayl Hubatch
David Hashemipour, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Ameera Ayubi, Staff Liaison
Heidi Wingate, Staff Support

COUNCIL OF EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES
Maryanne Travaglione, CEDC Chair and Chair, ACPL EDC
Denise Hsu - ACPL EDC Board Liaison
David Miller, Chair - BIO EDC Chair
Iman Majd, Board Liaison, BIO EDC
Daniel Jiao - FOM EDC Chair
Janet Zand, Board Liaison FOM
Anne Jeffres- CH EDC Chair
Zonglan Xu, Board Liaison, CH EDC
Afua Bromley, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Rachel Tan, Staff Liaison
Pam Frommelt, Staff Support
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Support

ACUPUNCTURE WITH POINT LOCATION EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Maryanne Travaglione, Chair
Denise Hsu, Board Liaison
Ruth Dalphin
Jonathan Daniel
Cui Han
Juli Walls-Olson, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison
CHINESE HERBOLOGY EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Anne Jeffres, Chair
Zonglan Xu, Board Liaison
Christine Chang
Yuxin He
Lamya Kamel
Bahai Ohlsen, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

BIOMEDICINE EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
David Miller, Chair
Iman Majd, Board Liaison
Bahia Ohlsen
Kathleen Dang
Patricia Miller, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Iman Majd, Chair
Susan Chapman
Steve Kazmierczak
David Miller
Larry Sachs
Jennifer Meador Stone, Guest
Eugene London, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
Rebecca Cassidy, Staff Support

FOUNTAIN OF ORIENTAL MEDICINE EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Daniel Jiao, Chair
Janet Zand, Board Liaison
Joan Boccino
Shaozhi Li
Leslie MacKenzie-Graham Getty, Guest
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

JOB ANALYSIS PANEL
Kimberley Benjamin
Michael Berger
Claudia Citkovitz
Weiyi Ding
Jake Fratkin
Anne Jeffres
David Miller
Juli Walls-Olson
Andy McIntyre
Bill Reddy
Melissa Smith
Michael Spano
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Kimberley Woo
Bingzeng Zou
Rachael Tan, Staff Liaison and Facilitator
Pamela Frommelt, Staff Liaison
Yvonne Sanders, Staff Liaison

CHINESE HERBAL DISPENSING AND COMPOUNDING SAFETY TASKFORCE
John Scott, Chair
William Egloff
Zonglan Xu
Amy Sear
Shellie Rosen
Afua Bromley, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Nemeth, Staff Liaison

ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WORKGROUP
David Canzone
Matthew Stanley
Janet Zand
John Richardson, Lobbyist Consultant
Afua Bromley, Ex-Officio
Kory Ward-Cook, Ex-Officio
Joe Nahra, Consultant Liaison
Mina Larson, Staff Liaison
The NCCAOM remains in a strong financial position as of December 31, 2017. The financial ratios continued to reflect a highly favorable position needed to sustain the organization’s programs and services to candidates, Diplomates and other stakeholder groups. Although there was a decrease in net assets of $(277,686) the NCCAOM maintained our required 9-month reserves as of December 31, 2017, as per NCCAOM governance policy. Net assets at the end of the year were $4.081 million. The NCCAOM Academy of Diplomates membership division was implemented in 2017 and a percentage of assets were earmarked for various projects to benefit Diplomates.

As part of the NCCAOM public education and media campaign strategic initiatives, the NCCAOM expended $70,174 to increase the awareness of acupuncture and Oriental medicine and the visibility of NCCAOM certified Diplomates. This campaign promotes NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists™ to the public, employers and other healthcare practitioners.

The Statement of Activities shows a total income of $3,786,862 which is a decrease 2016 total revenue of $4,041,150. The 2017 decrease was primarily due to the lower number of Diplomates that that were due to recertify in 2017 as expected for their renewal cycle, and compared to 2016. Accordingly, total expenses of $4,436,753 for 2017 are higher than the 2016 total expenses of $3,986,125. Figure 1 below shows the total income and Figure 2 shows total expenses by major budget categories for 2017.

Figure 3 on page 14 shows the total income and expenses by major categories. The figures show the percent of revenue and expenses, by major budget categories, for 2017.
### FIGURE 3: STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FY 2017

#### REVENUES  2017 | 2016
--- | ---
Examination Fees | 1,600,425 | 1,702,250
Practice Test Fees | N/A | 440
Application Fees | 894,915 | 804,860
Recertification Fees | 1,047,805 | 1,170,040
PDA Income | 201,500 | 221,836
Publication Income | 9,775 | 10,713
Service Fees | 32,442 | 131,011
**Total Revenues** | **3,786,862** | **4,041,150**

#### EXPENSES  2017 | 2016
--- | ---
Examination Administration Costs | 1,412,001 | 1,242,715
Recertification Costs | 305,648 | 425,916
Diplomate and Candidate Costs | 586,216 | 662,828
Academy of Diplomates | 926,556 | --
**Total Direct Costs** | **3,230,421** | **2,331,459**
Operating Revenue, Net | 556,441 | 1,709,691
Board & Committees Costs | 429,994 | 563,130
External Relations Costs | 177,685 | 162,411
General and Administrative Costs | 598,653 | 929,125
**Change in Net Assets Before Other Income** | **(649,891)** | **55,025**

#### OTHER INCOME (LOSS)  2017 | 2016
--- | ---
Investment Income | 373,158 | 222,257
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets | (953) | --
**Total Other Income (Loss)** | **372,205** | **222,257**
Change in Net Assets | (277,686) | 277,282

#### Net Assets, Beginning of Year | 2017: **4,359,038** | 2016: **4,081,756**
#### Net Assets, End of Year | 2017: **4,081,352** | 2016: **4,359,038**
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW MILESTONES

JANUARY
NCCAOM announced International Consultants of Delaware to conduct Academic Credential Validations.

FEBRUARY
NCCAOM provided both financial and legislative support to state regulatory agency in Wyoming to pass Acupuncture Practice Act.

Welcomed two new members to the Board of Commissioners: Janet Zand (1) and Matthew Stanley (2).

NCCAOM applied to the AMA on including a licensed acupuncturist representative in their procedural code Advisory Committee (CPT/HCPAC).

MARCH
NCCAOM provides funds to assist Wyoming with development of rules and regulations for First Practice Act.

Dr. Kory Ward-Cook, Afua Bromley and Iman Mad attended the annual ASA meeting (3).
APRIL
NCCAOM provides funds to assist Kansas with development of rules and regulations for First Practice Act.

MAY
Iman Majd attended 8th ISO/TC Meeting in Hong Kong (4).

NCCAOM launches Public Education Campaign to promote NCCAOM National Board-Certified Acupuncturists with the help of EchoMedia, its PR consultants.

JUNE
The NCCAOM staff created an interesting tool for the media and consumers called the AOM News and Research Center, which offers many articles relating to various health conditions treated by acupuncture from allergies to weight loss.

JULY
NCCAOM published a Press Release CDC Suggests Using OTC Painkillers In Lieu of Prescription Drugs But There’s a Safer Alternative.

AUGUST
NCCAOM developed the first NCCAOM Academy Position Statement on Dry Needling.

NCCAOM and the FSOMA hold Joint Conference in Orlando with NCCAOM Panel and Guest Speaker Michael Taromina (5).

SEPTEMBER
NCCAOM 2017Job Analysis Panel met in San Diego. The JA survey resulted in a record number of acupuncturists who participated in the survey (6).

OCTOBER
AOM Day
NCCAOM continued efforts to get “Acupuncturists” listed as a Standard of Occupational Code at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

NOVEMBER
The Opioid Crisis Campaign Project Timeline was created on NCCAOM and Academy website.

DECEMBER
NCCAOM went paperless with all applications for Certification, Recertification and PDA.
During the year 2017, there were 1,630 new applicants who applied for certification, an increase of 167 applications as compared to 2016. Of the new applicants for certification, 679 of these were received for Acupuncture certification and 929 for Oriental Medicine certification. Figure 1 shows the number of new applications received, by year, between 2013 and 2017*. Approximately 90% of all individuals applying for certification with the NCCAOM are educated in the United States.

Pearson VUE, the NCCAOM testing vendor with over 200 test centers around the world, administered 5,190 NCCAOM certification examinations in 2017 (Figure 2). This number is down 434 exams as compared to 5,624 administered in 2016. The difference is the number of Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL) exams, 450 less than in 2016. The NCCAOM offered the ACPL exam in linear format during the last quarter of 2015 and all of 2016. The ACPL was not offered in January 2017 and returned to a year-round adaptive format for exam administration in February 2017.

*Figure 1 and Figure 2 are represented as bar charts.
All states that regulate acupuncture (with the exception of California) require at the least passage of the Foundations of Oriental Medicine (FOM) and Acupuncture with Point Location (ACPL) examinations for licensure. Forty-six states plus the District of Columbia recognize NCCAOM certification or exams for licensure (Figure 3) and 11 states require passage of the Chinese Herbology (CH) examination for licensure.

**FIGURE 3: STATES USE OF NCCAOM CERTIFICATION OR EXAMS FOR ACUPUNCTURE LICENSURE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017**

- States that use NCCAOM Examination(s)
- States that require NCCAOM Certification
- States with no Acupuncture Practice Act
- California Licensing Examination
Figure 4 shows the states that include CH in their scope of practice for acupuncturists. Currently, 32 states require passage of the Biomedicine exam in addition to the FOM and ACPL examinations. In order to protect the public, the NCCAOM works closely with state regulatory boards to add the requirement for passage of BIO and, for those states that have Chinese Herbology in their scope of practice, the CH exams for licensure as of December 31, 2017.

**FIGURE 4: STATES THAT INCLUDE CHINESE HERBS IN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017**

- **States that include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice for Acupuncturists**
- **States that include Chinese Herbs in the Scope of Practice and Require Chinese Herbology Exam**
- **States that don’t include Chinese Herbs in their Scope of Practice**
- **States that don’t have a Practice Act**

* Effective October 1, 2014 State of Florida will require Chinese Herbology exam in order to practice Acupuncture.
FIGURE 5: NUMBER OF NCCAOM ACTIVE DIPLOMATES PER STATE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Figure 6) The NCCAOM awarded 965 certifications to new Diplomates in 2017, as compared to 859 in 2016. Approximately 5% more Oriental Medicine certifications are awarded each year as compared to certifications in Acupuncture.

(Figure 7) The NCCAOM is required to track and report annually the certification retention rate for anyone due to recertify during the year and report it to the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This information is not reflective of the former Diplomates reached and brought back to active status through the NCCAOM Customer Relations outreach efforts to former Diplomates who have allowed their certification to lapse for 1-3 years or whose certification has terminated after non-renewal for three consecutive years.
As you can see in Figure 8 the NCCAOM had a total of 18,736 certifications which are held by 17,600 active Diplomates as of December 31, 2017. This is the highest number of active certifications in the history of the NCCAOM. Diplomates are finding more and more value in certification as the Federal government and employers recognize NCCAOM certification as the national standard.

“NCCAOM had a total of 18,736 certifications which are held by 17,600 active Diplomates as of December 31, 2017. This is the highest number of active certifications in the history of the NCCAOM.”
2017 EXAMINATION STATISTICS

During 2017 the English language Acupuncture with Point Locations, Chinese Herbology, and Biomedicine certification exams were administered as computer adaptive examinations. Foundations of Oriental Medicine module was administered as computer linear exam. All examinations were administered at Pearson VUE Professional Test centers and the exam scoring and psychometric analyses were conducted by Schroder Measurement Technologies (SMT®). The examination statistics includes data for the following groups of test takers: ACAOM (Accreditation Commissioner for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine) First Time Test Takers (FTTT) are candidates educated in the United States at an accredited or school in candidacy for accreditation. International FTTT are candidates who are internationally educated, Apprenticeship FTTT are candidates who applied via the apprenticeship route of eligibility. The last group of test takers is School Repeat Test Takers (RTT), which is another category of candidate statistics from schools accredited or in candidacy with ACAOM.

The NCCAOM certification exams based on the new content outlines generated from the 2013 Job Analysis were implemented in February 2014. Figure 1 shows the consistency of the examination pass rates for all testers in Acupuncture with Point Location between 2013 and 2017.

![Figure 1: Examination Pass Rates All Examinees 2013 – 2017](image-url)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

As depicted in Figure 1, live presentations, both one-day and multiple-day, continue to be the most popular courses offered by NCCAOM PDA providers. Distance learning courses are also popular and most often are submitted as a bulk review providing a savings to the PDA provider. Conferences have remained consistent over the past four years.

As shown in Figure 2, the number of active NCCAOM PDA providers has maintained a steady growth rate over the past four years.
The function of the Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) is to review disciplinary cases that involve our Diplomates, Candidates, and Applicants. Since 2012, a total 219 cases have been reviewed by the PEDC. Figure 1 illustrates how the number of cases has dropped in the past year, a continuation of the trend since 2014.

The PEDC reviewed a total of 17 cases in 2017. This volume is attributed to the PEDC staff diligently cross-checking state disciplinary lists and bringing forth Failure to Report cases involving Diplomates who have failed to notify us of disciplinary action, criminal convictions, or other activities involving their fitness to practice. NCCAOM constituents and the AOM community are aware of the increased surveillance of their activities. In addition, NCCAOM has increased awareness of ethical issues by providing a live teaching symposium detailing common ethics violations and prevention in acupuncture practice.

Figure 2 highlights the different categories of cases from 2012 to 2017. In 2018, the NCCAOM will continue to focus on being proactive with the states to ensure that information is shared among all interested parties. Figure 2 also shows a decrease in almost all case categories. Of particular note is the large decrease in cases related to an administrative order from a school or professional association, which decreased more than 60% from 2015.
<table>
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<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Misleading/False Information</td>
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<td>Cheating/Examination Irregularity</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malpractice/Negligence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary Violations/Unprofessional Conduct</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
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