



NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Chris Robichaux, ASPPA
crobichaux@asppa.org
P 703-516-9300 x130

Jennifer Cusick, NTSAA
jcusick@ntsaa.org
P 314-692-9861 [direct]

ASPPA & NTSAA Announce New Credential Program

Arlington, Va. – The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) and the National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association (NTSAA) announced that ASPPA has begun offering education, including a new credential and certificate program, for professionals who specialize in the tax-exempt and governmental retirement plan market.

The Tax-Exempt and Governmental Plan Consultant (TGPC) credential focuses on the technical knowledge and consulting skills required for those who work on retirement plans for tax-exempt organizations. These issues include, but are not limited to, eligibility, vesting, contributions types and limits, nondiscrimination rules, allowable investments, contract exchanges, transfers, and plan documents. TGPC-credentialed members are subject to the same continuing education requirements as all other credentialed ASPPA members and are subject to the ASPPA Code of Professional Conduct. A Tax-Exempt and Governmental Plan Administration Certificate program also has been created.

“In light of significant regulatory and administrative changes in 403(b) plans effective in 2009, ASPPA is pleased to be expanding its educational offerings to address the needs of this marketplace,” said [Brian Graff](#), ASPPA executive director and chief executive officer. Graff will announce further details about the program on February 27, 2009, at the opening general session of the NTSAA National Conference in New Orleans.

NTSAA and ASPPA have agreed that ASPPA is to assume responsibility for the educational credentialing program on behalf of the NTSAA (which formerly offered the CRS and MCRS credentials). The new TGPC credential is obtained by passing a series of four examinations. *The Source 403(b) & 457(b) Plans* by Kristi Cook, J.D., and Eleanor Lowder, was recently updated and will serve as the primary study tool for the TGPC program.

For additional information, including grandfathering provisions for credentialed NTSAA and ASPPA members, visit [New ASPPA TGPC Credential](#), or to speak with a spokesperson, contact Chris Robichaux at crobichaux@asppa.org, 703-516-9300, ext. 130.

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The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA), based in Arlington, Va., is a national organization of more than 6,500 retirement plan professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering millions of American workers. ASPPA members are retirement professionals of all disciplines including consultants, administrators, actuaries, accountants, and attorneys. The large and broad-based ASPPA membership gives it unusual insight into current practical problems with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and qualified retirement plans with a particular focus on the issues faced by small- to medium-sized employers. ASPPA membership is diverse and united by a common dedication to the private retirement plan system. For more information, visit www.asppa.org.

The National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association (NTSAA) is the only independent, non-profit association dedicated to the 403(b) and 457 marketplaces in the nation. The NTSAA formed in 1989 and now has grown to approximately 1,000 practitioners, agencies, corporate, and employer members. The NTSAA mission is to provide high quality related education, technical support, and information resources, as well as to offer a professional networking forum. Membership is open to anyone with a strong interest in the issues and opportunities in the 403(b) and 457(b) marketplace. For more information, visit www.ntsaa.org.