





ATP 2014-15

Creating a smaller world for testing

Dear Colleagues,

These have been ATP's first years as a truly global organization.

We amended our by-laws, strengthened both our Practice Area and
Regional Divisions, and created "a smaller world for testing." This fulfilled one of ATP's
fundamental missions "to increase the strength and cohesiveness of the test publisher community"

canother tenet of its mission statement in "providing programs of education, training and exchanges of ideas" through successful conferences in Arizona, Budapest and California. All of these conferences brought delegates together from more than 20 countries around the globe, and enjoyed record levels of sponsorship and attendance.

Another important tenet of ATP's mission is to "promote and preserve the general welfare of testing and its value to society in all its forms and uses." More and more, one of testing's uses has been in the area of workforce skills credentialing. Over the past ten years labor market credentials have grown significantly in both number and variety, and so has uncertainty about the quality and value of these credentials, and how they relate to each other. This has caused serious confusion in the labor market and has resulted in worsening skill shortages and rising costs for employers, job seekers, and public funders alike. We examined these issues at ATP and decided that they are largely derived from the lack of public-private standards that could support transparency and trust in the credentialing marketplace. And so to address this challenge ATP created a new Practice Area Division for Workforce Skills Credentialing which will focus on the creation of standards, as well as the examination and communication of best practices, p guide this important area of

assessment.

Also in 2014 and 2015, ATP identified other areas of society which rely heavily on quality assessment -- which is the Public Sector and the Health Care industry. ATP has launched a Public Sector Special Interest Group (SIG) with the aim of bringing together international governments and non-governmental organizations who have an abiding interest in growing their pubic service work corps through the use of quality assessment and screening practices. The Public Sector SIG held its first organizational meeting in Budapest which attracted international delegates from Europe, Africa, the U.K., and parts of the Middle East, as well as from the United Nations and European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO). The Health Care SIG was kicked off in Palm Springs with an initial breakfast and networking session.

ATP has continued to collaborate with other like-minded communities and will be working with the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) to develop a white paper focused on innovative item formats. This will include a portfolio of sample item types which will make a meaningful contribution to innovative assessment. And ATP has continued in its mission to monitor and respond not only to legal rulings and legislative initiatives that impact testing, but also to the media. This year two flawed articles appeared in otherwise respected publications - The Wall Street Journal and Human Resource Executive Online. ATP responded with Letters to the Editor correcting inaccuracies in the reporting and providing important points of research to support a more intelligent discourse on the topic of workplace testing. Both Letters to the Editor were acknowledged by the corresponding publications.

For yet another year ATP has met the challenges of its mission thanks to your loyal support as members. The final tenet of ATP's mission can go almost without saying which is "to encourage a high level of professionalism and business ethics throughout the testing community." I can think of no higher level of professionalism than that which is found, year after year, among ATP members. It has been your commitment as ATP members, your dedication to the testing and assessment industry, and your high standards as professionals that have enabled ATP to come this far – from a fledgling group of publishers - to a global leader.

-- William G. Harris, Ph.D.



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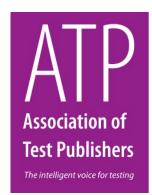
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