

THE EDGE



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SURGICAL ASSISTING
FALL 2014

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so, that I have them on the white board in my office and I share them with every new and potential employee.

How does this translate into my role as an operations manager for one of the largest medical facilities in the world with the second best cardiac surgery practice in the country and finally as a leader of a nationally recognized organization? Honestly, it isn't easy to do! These are essential attributes that I am confident do not rise to the top when engaged in conversation about the profession of surgical technology and surgical first assisting or maybe any professional dialogue for that matter.

Loyalty: These are the times when the rubber meets the road. Loyalty is a true gut check, a reassessment of your devotion, your commitment and your obligations to the tasks at hand. This is about who you are as a person and how you wear your colors, because perceptions are real.

Initiative: The readiness and ability to take action. As a surgical technologist and/or surgical first assistant, take a moment to think about what this means to you, your patient, surgeon and the OR team as a whole. Your answers should be crystal clear! That sense of urgency when you are in the thick of the soup requires your ability to initiate action. This is the time to do your best. It requires a positive and confident approach because the outcome may depend on your actions. Think about that the next time you are in the soup and need to take the initiative to do the right thing. Remember, *"the right thing is not always the popular thing"*. It requires an attitude of flexible responsibility and a willingness to give more. This is a time to challenge yourself, trusting and believing in your judgment and abilities.

Competency: The task is well within range and scope of practice. No one does it better. The surgeon knows having you at the table is one of the most essential ingredients necessary to yield the best outcome for the patient.

I want to thank the NBSTSA Board of Directors and staff for their continued support and trust during my term. Most importantly, thank you to the CSTs, CSFAs and programs who believe in the NBSTSA and the products and services they provide. This experience has been amazing and I appreciate all involved for the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the past two years.

Ron Alston, CST, FAST, BA, MA
President, NBSTSA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LOYALTY – COMPETENCY - INITIATIVE

As I conclude my second and final term as president for the NBSTSA, I want to say the experience has been both rewarding and challenging. It has been a time of growth and maturity for both me personally, and the organization. So, what have I learned over the past couple of years? I would like to provide a very concise, yet very broad answer to this question.



A world renowned cardiac surgeon provided a brief, but powerful message during a conversation we were having about an employee that had decided to transfer to another department during a seemingly stressful time within the work environment. Although stressful, this was a time to buckle down, face challenges head on and approach these times as opportunities to create positive change. During our conversation I asked him, "What are the expectations of an employee assisting you in the operating room?" He answered that question in three words, "Loyalty, competency and initiative". As brief as our exchange was, those three words have been immensely impactful. So much



2014 is proving to be a HUGE year for the State Assembly Outreach Program sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). After a strong spring when the NBSTSA visited seven state meetings, this fall is shaping up to be the busiest ever for staff. In total, 17 states will be visited by NBSTSA representatives in 2014. Both members of our Board of Directors and staff participate in this outreach program. All of the states who took part know who you are, but we want everyone to know!

- Arkansas
- Arizona
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maine
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington

When invited to a state assembly meeting, the NBSTSA can provide a number of services. Our general session, "Understanding your Credential", is an overview of the NBSTSA and the CST and CSFA credentials. In addition, the NBSTSA has a 50 minute session tailored to the surgical technology student and the CST examination for states that run concurrent student tracks.

Don't need a speaker? No problem! If we don't attend your state's meeting in person, we can provide literature on the CST and CSFA examination programs, as well as giveaways for attendees. The goal of the State Assembly Outreach Program is simple - to educate on and promote the importance of the CST and CSFA credentials. Together we can spread the word and make it happen!

While the State Assembly Outreach Program is fully funded by the NBSTSA and our intent is to provide a valued service to the state assemblies, please do not think for one minute that we do not gain from the experience as well! Both the NBSTSA board of directors and staff representatives that participate in the program echo the same sentiments after attending state meetings. What sentiments you may ask? Welcoming. Enthusiastic. Professional. Committed. This is what we see when we attend. The NBSTSA representatives come away from your meetings refreshed and renewed, and newly committed to our mission of supporting the CST and CSFA and the amazing individuals who hold these credentials. Every single person we encounter, shake hands with and speak to, becomes a new friend. So as you can see, the NBSTSA benefits as well!

I write this column for the fall 2014 issue of *The Edge* while on my way to the Florida State Assembly meeting being held in Tampa, Florida. I am somewhere over Oklahoma, I expect. This is my first visit to the Florida meeting and I'm really excited! New people to meet, new discussions to have, new points to ponder. A great beginning to a new relationship between the Florida State Assembly and the NBSTSA. What an opportunity. Let's continue to do good work together, state by state. Hope to see you soon!

Ron Kruzel, CST, MA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, NBSTSA

▲ PARTNERSHIP CORNER

WEAVING OUR TAPESTRY TOGETHER


Just as various professionals on the surgical team collaborate to deliver quality care to the patient in surgery, so do the partner organizations serving the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) and Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA). Whether the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST), the Association of Surgical Assistants (ASA), the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) or the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), each agency has a unique role in contributing to developing quality and pride in our chosen professions. Although each partner organization has its own distinct mission, their efforts weave together like threads of a tapestry to benefit CSTs and CSFAs.

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) cooperate to establish, maintain and promote appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in surgical technology and to provide recognition for educational programs that meet or exceed those standards. Representatives from the AST and ACS are appointed to positions on the ARC/STSA Board of Directors. A separate board subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Accreditation for Surgical Assisting (SASA), reviews and evaluates surgical assisting programs, then provides recommendations to the ARC/STSA Board.

“...IT IS THE SYNERGY OF THE THREADS WHEN WOVEN TOGETHER THAT FORM A COHESIVE WORK OF ART.”

When the ARC/STSA conducts its periodic review of the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Technology, it considers resolutions made by the AST House of Delegates. Direct input comes from individuals appointed by AST and ACS to positions on the ARC/STSA board of directors. During the revision process the CAAHEP Standards Committee reviews, drafts and assures consistency with CAAHEP regulations. Next come open comment periods and a public hearing where practitioners, educators and the public have an opportunity to provide feedback. All along way, various communities of interest contribute to ensuring the standards for surgical technology education are appropriate. The result? Countless avenues of input to support key initiatives that advance our profession, such as requiring the minimum of an Associate Degree for newly hired Program Directors and the projection to require a minimum of an Associate Degree to enter practice as a surgical technologist by 2021.

One of the key outcomes in measuring the effectiveness of surgical technology or surgical first assisting education is the



graduates' acquisition of theoretical knowledge essential to their profession. This is where the close collaboration between the ARC/STSA and the NBSTSA comes in. In 1994, the Liaison Council on Certification for Surgical Technologists (LCC-ST), predecessor to the NBSTSA, determined that graduation from an accredited surgical technology program would be required to sit for the CST examination, effective March 2000. This decision validated the necessity to fully transition from on-the-job-training to a post-secondary education focus for our profession. A few years later, when considering the best method to assess a CAAHEP accredited program's success in providing knowledge essential to the practice of surgical technology, the ARC/STSA selected the NBSTSA's national examination for the CST as its sole outcome assessment examination. The ARC/STSA valued the NCCA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) recognition the CST examination held, as well as the rigorous standards in place to assure test validity and reliability. Not only are all 466 accredited surgical technology programs required to achieve a threshold of a minimum 70% pass rate, but 100% of the graduates must participate. Shortly thereafter, the ARC/STSA determined thresholds for the NBSTSA's CSFA examination and hold accredited surgical first assisting programs accountable for reaching a 71% pass rate. With this collaboration, our surgical patients can feel confident that they are being cared for by personnel who have a quality education and respected credential. As the threads of education and credentials weave together, they intersect with the legislative threads of AST as it works to require graduation from an accredited program and certification in all 50 states.

Our various organizations collectively are like a quality piece of tapestry....each thread has beauty and function, but it is the synergy of the threads when woven together that form a cohesive work of art. As we collaborate, with shared goals, the true benefits to the professions of surgical technology and surgical first assisting are evident. Together we must promote membership in our professional organizations, excellence in education and certification for all practitioners. What thread will you contribute to the tapestry?

Betsy Slagle, MS, RN, CST

President, Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE NBSTSA

PART 1 OF 2

The staff at the NBSTSA are often asked, "Why does it take so long to process an examination application?" Therefore, we thought our readers might enjoy learning more about what happens to your examination or renewal application after it is received and how things work in the office.

"HOW HARD CAN PROCESSING AN APPLICATION REALLY BE?"

Most of the NBSTSA's mail is typically received through United States Postal Service and is delivered late afternoon and opened the following morning. The mail that is opened on Monday mornings takes a little longer to go through because it is from the previous Friday and Saturday. The applications are sorted into stacks by type of payment and then forwarded to the Accounting Department for payment processing. For your protection, payment is processed right away, then the cashed checks are locked-up and the credit card information is redacted. Once payment goes through, the applications, supporting documentation, payment receipts and any faxes received are scanned into the document management system that was implemented last December, Image Now. The implementation of Image Now was the first step in the NBSTSA's effort to become paperless. The next step in this process is to offer electronic applications and forms online. After scanning, everything is linked to the appropriate individual's database record. As files are linked, they are moved into a queue for the proper department: Examinations, Renewals or Web-Based Testing (on-campus examinations). Name changes are completed and requests for new documents are forwarded to the NBSTSA Records Specialist. From there, applications are processed by each department, in the order they were received, unless the additional fee to have the processing rushed was paid. All rush applications are processed in 3 to 5 business days from the day we receive and process the payment.

You may be thinking, "How hard can processing an application really be?" You are correct; processing an application is not a difficult process. Data entry and verifying information is easy enough, but the sheer number of applications the NBSTSA receives is what makes standard processing take the time it does. For example, in the month of June 2014, the Renewals Department processed 632 renewals by continuing education credits and re-examination. An impressive 885 students tested on-campus in the month of June. Finally, 352 individuals took CST and CSFA examinations at testing centers that same month. In addition to their department duties that month, the NBSTSA staff also answered over 2,500 phone calls and did any necessary follow-up work, responded to approximately 150 e-mails submitted through the NBSTSA website as well as any additional e-mails received, mailed Authorization To Test (ATT) letters and transferred candidate information to our testing vendor, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), every day, and

processed the results for off-campus testing every week. The on-campus testing department corresponds with about 487 schools who administer examinations throughout the year, which amounts to a significant amount of phone calls, e-mails, applications and results to process and documents to mail. Photos have to be scanned before certification cards can be printed, which can sometimes delay our ability to get student results in the mail, simply because of the volume of photos that must scanned.

The NBSTSA currently employs 12 full-time staff and two part-time staff, who sometimes work close to full-time hours. Staff has been added each year as our candidate numbers have grown, and temporary employees are frequently brought in during heavy processing times.

In addition to handling over 50,000 currently certified CSTs and CSFAs, in 2014 the NBSTSA has been busy implementing new technology and marketing initiatives, as well as continuing with the Milestone Recognition Program, the Merit Recipient Program for education programs achieving 90% or higher pass rate, speaking at 19 state assembly and other meetings, exhibiting at 13 trade shows, meeting with the Item Writing and Examination Review Committees to work on new test questions, mailing out online store purchases, and many other miscellaneous strategic initiatives that come up. While the NBSTSA is always investigating ways in which processes can be improved and non-essential work can be outsourced, it is staff's responsibility to make sure that these methods are cost effective and in the best interests of the NBSTSA and our constituents.

Our staff hopes that after reading this, you have more of an understanding of what we do here at the NBSTSA on a daily basis!

Stay tuned for part 2 in the next edition of The Edge to discover what the NBSTSA is doing to promote your credentials in the surgical community and the different programs that are offered.

Ann Redford
NBSTSA Project Coordinator

► DO YOU HAVE NEWS THAT OTHERS WILL FIND INTERESTING? DO YOU KNOW OF AN UPCOMING EVENT? DO YOU WANT TO SHARE A STORY, AN OPINION OR LET US KNOW IF YOUR ST PROGRAM IS DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL? TELL US, [EMAIL CARA@NBSTSA.ORG](mailto:CARA@NBSTSA.ORG)

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2014 SANDRA EDWARDS, CST SCHOLARSHIP

The NBSTSA is proud to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Sandra Edwards, CST Scholarship. Scholarship eligibility requires applicants to be enrolled in an NBSTSA recognized surgical technology or surgical first assisting program. Applicants are scored by the NBSTSA Scholarship Committee in areas such as academic achievement, financial need, career goals, mentor/instructor recommendations and personal essays.

This year's award recipients are:

Jennifer Archbell

A former veterinary technician, Mrs. Archbell says leaving the veterinary field and enrolling in the surgical technology program at Technical College of the Low Country in Beaufort, SC, "was the smartest decision (she) ever made." Jennifer believes she has found her calling and looks forward to serving others when she graduates in August, 2014.

Samantha Bauler

Ms. Bauler has made the most of her time as a surgical technology student at Amarillo College in Amarillo, TX. There Samantha has maintained a 4.0 GPA while participating in a number of charitable organizations, including Susan G. Komen for a Cure and Change Tree.

Jennifer Kvaule

As a single mom of six, Jennifer worked hard to maintain her 4.0 GPA at East Valley Institute of Technology in Mesa, AZ. Jennifer is looking forward to beginning her clinicals and is passionate about her decision to pursue her dream of being in the medical industry.

Kelsey McClellan

Ms. McClellan is a recent graduate of Eastern Idaho Technical College's surgical technology program in Idaho Falls, ID. As a new CST, Kelsey is excited to begin working to put her education into practice. Kelsey is passionate about serving as a patient advocate and making a difference in the OR.

Jennifer Morand

Ms. Morand is a student at MassBay Community College where she maintains a 4.0 GPA. Jennifer has always been passionate about caring for people. Prior to beginning her journey as a surgical technologist, Ms. Morand was combat medic in the United States Army for seven years, including two deployments. Jennifer credits her success to the support of her family.

David Osorio

David is currently a student in the surgical technology program at Berkeley College in Clifton, NJ. In addition to maintaining an A average, David tutors other students in the program. Mr. Osorio also dedicates his time to "Healing the Children" as they prepare for a medical mission to Peru.



Students at Meridian Institute of Surgical Assisting, practice their suturing skills in a hands-on lab environment.

Edith Park

Edith Park completed her AAS in Surgical Technology from Virginia College in Savannah, GA; where she graduated from her program cum laude. Outside of the classroom, Edith was involved in the Georgia State Assembly and has written various articles about the medical industry.

Kelly Thielman

Ms. Thielman is currently a surgical technology student at Virginia College in Pensacola, FL. She is looking forward to graduation in winter, 2014. Kelly is also the secretary for her college's surgical technology student club, Instruments of Excellence.

Taylor Van Kley

Taylor attended Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Luverne, MN. While in school Taylor maintained a 4.0 GPA, Dean's List and perfect attendance. After undergoing ear surgery as a child, Mr. Van Kley would be thrilled to join an ENT surgical team.

Michelle Witt

Michelle is a CST continuing her education at Wayne County Community College in Belleville, MI where she is preparing for a career as a surgical first assistant. In addition to completing a surgical assisting program, Ms. Witt is currently employed at Oakwood Hospital where she serves as a preceptor.

NBSTSA NUGGETS

NEWS AND INFORMATION

► WELCOME NEW BOD MEMBERS!

The NBSTSA is pleased to welcome Lorrie Campbell, CST, BS, MA, FAST and Ron Anderson to the NBSTSA Board of Directors. This is the 1st term for both Lorrie and Ron and they will be eligible for re-appointment in 2017.

► WELCOME NEW ERC MEMBERS!

The CST Examination Review Committee (ERC) is delighted to introduce two new faces! Julie Vance, CST from Aurora, CO and Chante Yearby, CST from Romeoville, IL will be joining this hard-working committee.

► GOING GREEN

The NBSTSA is excited to announce that phase 2 of our efforts to go paperless will be complete this October and online applications will be available on www.nbstsa.org. Stay tuned to social media for more information on this exciting step.

► A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

Certification statistics for the 2014 test form year (August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014) are now available on www.nbstsa.org. Look under Examinations then Certification Statistics to view the latest pass rates and more.

- Bellingham Technical College – WA
- Bismarck State College – ND
- Blue Ridge Community College – NC
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College – KY
- Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing – CT
- Brookline College – AZ
- Canadian Valley Technology Center – OK
- Cape Fear Community College – NC
- Catawba Valley Community College – NC
- Central Carolina Technical College – SC
- Central Piedmont Community College – NC
- Chattahoochee Technical College – GA
- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College – OH
- Cisco College – TX
- City College – Miami – FL
- College of Central Florida – FL
- College of DuPage – IL
- College of Lake County – IL
- College of the Albemarle – NC
- College of Southern Idaho – ID
- College of Western Idaho – ID
- Collin County Community College – TX
- Columbia Basin College – WA
- Community College of Baltimore County – MD
- Concord Hospital – NH
- Concord Career College – Aurora – CO
- Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital – PA
- Cuyahoga Community College – OH
- Davis Applied Technology College – UT
- Del Mar College – TX
- Delaware Technical Community College – DE
- Delgado Community College – LA
- Delta College – MI
- Dixie State University – UT
- Eastern Idaho Technical College – ID
- Eastern Maine Community College – ME
- Eastern Virginia Medical School – VA
- EHOVE School of Surgical Technology – OH
- El Centro College – TX
- El Paso Community College – TX
- Elgin Community College – IL
- Fayetteville Technical Community College – NC
- Flathead Valley Community College – MT
- Flowers Hospital – AL
- Frederick Community College – MD
- Gateway Technical College – WI
- Great Bay Community College – NH
- Great Falls College – Montana State University – MT
- Great Plains Technology Center – OK
- Greenville Technical College – SC
- Gwinnett Technical College – GA
- Harrisburg Area Community College – PA
- Henry Ford College – MI
- Hillyard Technical Center – MO

2014 MERIT RECIPIENTS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following surgical technology and surgical assisting programs for achieving a pass rate of 90% or higher on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) or Certified Surgical First Assisting (CSFA) examination. School statistics were pulled from August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014. These statistics include all candidates who tested, not only WBT and current graduates, but previous graduates as well. Merit recipients were sent a congratulatory letter, customized media release as well as a certificate for this outstanding achievement.

- Aiken Technical College – SC
- Aims Community College – CO
- Albany Technical College – GA
- Albert I. Prince CTHSS – CT
- Angelina College – TX
- Anoka Technical College – MN
- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College – NC
- Ashland Community & Technical College – KY
- Baker College of Allen Park – MI
- Baker College of Clinton Township – MI
- Baker College of Jackson – MI
- Baker College of Muskegon – MI
- Baptist Health Schools of Little Rock – AR

- Indian River State College – FL
- Indiana University Health – IN
- Iowa Lakes Community College – IA
- Ivy Tech Community College – Columbus – IN
- Ivy Tech Community College – Evansville – IN
- Ivy Tech Community College – Indianapolis – IN
- Ivy Tech Community College – Muncie – IN
- Ivy Tech Community College – Terre Haute – IN
- Ivy Tech Community College – Valparaiso – IN
- Jefferson Community and Technical College – KY
- Kingsborough Community College – NY
- Lackawanna College – PA
- Lake Superior College – MN
- Lakeland Community College – OH
- Lamar State College – Port Arthur – TX
- Lansing Community College – MI
- Las Positas College – CA
- Lenoir Community College – NC
- Lincoln Land Community College – IL
- Lincoln Technical Institute in Seminole – FL
- Lincoln University – MO
- Lorain County Community College – OH
- Macomb Community College – MI
- Madisonville Community College – KY
- Maine Medical Center – ME
- McCann School of Business & Technology – Hazleton – PA
- McCann School of Business & Technology – Sunbury – PA
- McLennan Community College – TX
- Middle Georgia Technical College – GA
- Midlands Technical College – SC
- Milwaukee Area Technical College – WI
- Minnesota West Community & Technical College – MN
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – MS
- Monongalia County Technical Education Center – WV
- Montgomery College – MD
- Montgomery County Community College – PA
- Mt. Diablo Adult Education – CA
- Mt. Hood Community College – OR
- Nassau Community College – NY
- North Central Texas College – TX
- Northcentral Technical College – WI
- Northeast State Community College – TN
- Oakland Community College – MI
- Onondaga Community College – NY
- Owens State Community College – OH
- Ozarks Technical Community College – MO
- Palm Beach Community College – FL
- Parkland College – IL
- Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences – PA
- Piedmont Technical College – SC
- Rasmussen College – Brooklyn Park – MN
- Rasmussen College – Moorhead – MN
- Renton Technical College – WA
- Richland Community College – IL
- Riverside School of Health Careers – VA
- Robeson Community College – NC
- Rock Valley College – IL
- Rockingham Community College – NC
- Salt Lake Community College – UT
- San Joaquin Valley College – Fresno – CA
- Sarasota County Technical Institute – FL
- Sentara College of Health Sciences – VA
- Somerset Community College – KY
- South Central Louisiana Technical College – LA
- South Plains College – TX
- Southeast Community College – NE
- Southeast Missouri Hospital – MO
- Spartanburg Community College – SC
- Spencerian College – KY
- Springfield Technical Community College – MA
- St. Luke’s Hospital – PA
- Tarrant County College – TX
- Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Hohenwald – TN
- The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences – PA
- The University of Montana College of Technology – MT
- Traviss Career Center – FL
- Trinity Valley Community College – TX
- Trocaire College – NY
- University of Saint Francis – IN
- Vernon College – TX
- Wake Technical Community College – NC
- Washburn Institute of Technology – KS
- Waukesha County Technical College – WI
- West Virginia University at Parkersburg – WV
- Western Iowa Tech Community College – IA
- Western Suffolk BOCES – NY
- Wharton County Junior College – TX
- Wichita Area Technical College – KS
- Wilson Community College – NC

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Our goal is to provide timely and relevant information, news and support to our Certified Surgical Technologists and Certified Surgical First Assistants across the nation.

- Like us at [Facebook.com/TheNBSTSA](https://www.facebook.com/TheNBSTSA)
- Follow us at [Twitter.com/NBSTSA](https://www.twitter.com/NBSTSA)





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UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEE YOU THERE!

Pennsylvania State Assembly Meeting

Pittsburgh, PA

• **SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**

Arizona State Assembly Meeting

Phoenix, AZ

• **SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**

Kentucky State Assembly Meeting

Louisville, KY

• **SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**

METC Meeting

San Antonio, TX

• **SEPTEMBER 24, 2014**

North Carolina State Assembly Meeting

Concord, NC

• **SEPTEMBER 27, 2014**

New York State Assembly Meeting

Brooklyn, NY

• **SEPTEMBER 27, 2014**

American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Conference

Dallas, TX

• **OCTOBER 8–10, 2014**

Maine State Assembly Meeting - Augusta, ME

• **OCTOBER 18, 2014**

Washington State Assembly Meeting - Pasco, WA

• **OCTOBER 25, 2014**

American Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference & Exposition - Anaheim, CA

• **OCTOBER 26–29, 2014**

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

San Francisco, CA

• **OCTOBER 26–30, 2014**

Association of Surgical Assistants Fall Meeting

Orlando, FL

• **OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 1, 2014**

Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting - Tulsa, OK

• **NOVEMBER 1, 2014**

Institute for Credentialing Excellence Exchange

San Antonio, TX

• **NOVEMBER 11–14, 2014**

Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement Health Care - Orlando, FL

• **DECEMBER 7–10, 2014**