



# 2013 IS COMING: TEXAS' MOVEMENT INTO STATEWIDE CAAHEP ACCREDITATION

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**T**here are nearly 100 paramedic education programs in the State of Texas, 15 of which are nationally accredited. With the National Registry mandate that by January 1, 2013, all students who take the paramedic examination must have completed a Nationally Accredited paramedic program, it is now time for Texas Paramedic programs to get ready to meet the challenge ahead of reaching accreditation for all advanced level programs. This change will allow Texas programs to be on par with programs in other states and will allow personnel to enjoy the flexibility and ease of transfer to and from other states which will open the pool of applicants and the ability to draw applicants to Texas to take care of our increasing

and complex patient population. Basic programs are not affected by the national accreditation process.

It is relatively well accepted that all paramedic education programs must start working on the accreditation process by completing the self-study and program evaluation. To assist with this process, the Education Subcommittee of the Governor's Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) has begun what is called "2013 is Coming: Are You Ready for Paramedic Program Accreditation?" The project brings together the currently accredited programs, offering assistance to those in the process, as well as other resources from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) and

the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

The 2013 project also involves gaining support for the accreditation process from all of our communities of interest. We will focus on the benefits to the program and educational outcomes, why choosing an accredited paramedic program is more desirable and how graduates will be better educated (not just trained), possibly with associates degrees or significant college hours. Keeping in mind that it will not be a requirement for a paramedic to have a degree in order to become certified in Texas, but to improve the delivery system and the quality of the education they receive.

By working with currently accredited programs and through assistance sessions offered quarterly in conjunction with the Education sub-committee, 2013 will be providing assistance in self-study development, program evaluation, educational preparation for teaching such as Bachelor's degree for program directors, and encouragement for all educational faculties to pursue a similar degree. The Education Committee of GETAC has been in contact with colleges and universities in Texas that have on-line programs that will grant college credit for life experiences and will make the transition to the

next degree easier than many have previously thought.

Along the way, the project will assist educational programs in the move away from the "store bought" program, and into program enhancement. This will involve teaching more than text, augmentation and strengthening of publisher developed PowerPoints, and moving away from publishers test banks into valid and reliable testing processes.

The next four years will be very busy for paramedic education programs in Texas.

Working together, we hope to make the transition into accreditation as smooth and painless as possible, the end result being a much improved educational process and more capable paramedic graduates.

For more information please contact Jeff McDonald at [jeff.mcdonald@tccd.edu](mailto:jeff.mcdonald@tccd.edu) or Jodie Harbert at [jodieharbert@verizon.net](mailto:jodieharbert@verizon.net)



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### National Registry of EMTs – Director of Research

The National Registry of EMTs is pleased to announce the recruitment of a Director of Research. The NREMT research program is growing and we are seeking a highly motivated individual to lead a team of researchers. The NREMT Board of Directors has approved an ambitious research agenda, which focuses on competency, health/safety/wellness, and EMS workforce issues. These exciting lines of inquiry, combined with the resources of the NREMT, provide a unique opportunity for scholarship and impact the future of EMS.

A doctoral degree is required. The ideal candidate will have EMS and/or health care experience, a strong research methods/statistics background, and peer-reviewed research experience. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**Interested applicants should send a cover letter and curriculum vitae to:**  
Gregg S. Margolis, Ph.D, NREMT-P, Associate Director, National Registry of EMTs  
P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, OH 43229

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