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## **PES and NBCOT Sign New Contract Continuing Agenda of Program Enhancements**

New York, NY, May 2003 — Professional Examination Service (PES) is pleased to announce a new three-year contract with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT), effective January 1, 2003. The contract continues the implementation of a series of technological and psychometric updates to the NBCOT's certification programs that are designed to enhance services to candidates and ensure the currency of its two examinations.

Commenting on the signing, NBCOT Executive Director, Paul Grace, said, "NBCOT looks forward to our ongoing relationship with PES, which is structured to ensure NBCOT's leadership role in advancing the public's reliance on NBCOT certified practitioners." According to PES President, I. Leon Smith, "Our work with NBCOT is a direct reflection of our ability to combine talent and technology to meet the changing needs of a client."

PES assisted NBCOT in transitioning its programs to computer-based testing (CBT) in 2001 and has managed the relationship with the CBT vendor, Prometric, since that time. Under the terms of the new contract, PES continues as the liaison with Prometric, a leader in providing technology-based testing services. In addition, early in the new contract, PES and NBCOT expanded examination administration from four windows of testing annually to on-demand testing all year round.

In 2001, PES worked with NBCOT to develop online practice examinations for use by candidates anytime of day, anywhere in the world. Previously, candidates had to travel to their nearest testing center to take a computer-delivered practice examination, which was often prohibitively difficult, particularly for NBCOT's large number of international candidates. Ongoing enhancements are expected to lead to a suite of practice examinations serving different candidate needs. This year, PES and NBCOT began offering online score reporting to a diverse range of stakeholder groups. Not only can candidates obtain a complete testing history online, but school program directors can also view a list of passing candidates from their programs. In addition, members of state regulatory boards can access score reports for candidates who have requested a score transfer to their state.

PES also recently began pre-equating NBCOT's examinations using Item Response Theory (IRT). Pre-equating has enabled PES to provide faster score reporting to NBCOT candidates and other stakeholders. Using pre-equating methodologies, critical test development activities such as item analysis, answer key finalization, and examination equating can be completed before new test forms are administered. The new agreement formalizes and extends the pre-equating services PES provides to NBCOT.

PES is a nonprofit corporation with more than 60 years' experience developing, implementing and enhancing credentialing programs. PES's mission is to promote the public welfare by communicating and demonstrating the value of credentialing. PES achieves its mission by providing personalized services and by making public service contributions in support of a broad range of credentialing activities, including professional licensure and certification, competency assurance, accreditation, and training-related certification. For more information about PES, contact Kenneth Doucet, Director, Business Development and Marketing, phone: (212) 367-4235, e-mail: [kdoucet@proexam.org](mailto:kdoucet@proexam.org).

NBCOT is a not-for-profit credentialing agency that provides certification for the occupational therapy profession. NBCOT serves the public interest by developing, administering, and continually reviewing a certification process that reflects current standards of competent practice in occupational therapy. The agency also works with state regulatory authorities, providing information on credentials, disciplinary actions, and regulatory and certification renewal issues.