

School at Work® “Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare” Participants Eligible for National Career Readiness Certificate

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Catalyst Learning Company® (CLC) today announced a partnership with ACT, Inc. that gives its healthcare customers increased access to ACT’s nationally recognized employability credential - the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is based on ACT’s WorkKeys® assessments and verifies that an individual possesses essential work-related skills in reading, math, and locating information.

Employers across the country rely on the NCRC to ensure that their employees are prepared for more complex job tasks and ready to move into more advanced positions within their organization. The agreement announced today will enable graduates of CLC’s School at Work (SAW) program to complete WorkKeys assessments and qualify for the NCRC from the hospital work-site. CLC will provide the education and technology linkages needed to access the assessments and receive the NCRC.

Integrating the NCRC with the SAW program will directly address the needs of employers and economic and workforce development organizations seeking an easily understood and nationally portable credential that documents the attainment of essential workplace skills. It will also help SAW participants demonstrate that they possess both the occupational and employability skills needed for success in a wide range of healthcare careers.

“We appreciate the vision shown by Catalyst Learning and respect its interest in helping SAW participants document their essential workplace skills,” said Martin Scaglione, Chief Operating Officer for ACT’s Workforce Development Division. “Our research shows that the skills reflected by National Career Readiness Certificate are relevant to many healthcare occupations. ACT is fully committed to helping build a highly-skilled workforce for this high-growth sector.”

School at Work is a proven career development system for low-skilled incumbent workers in the healthcare industry. Developed by Catalyst Learning Company, over 9,000 students at 430 hospitals nationwide have benefited from the *SAW “Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare”* program, which was initially made possible by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration. Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) in Chicago, Atlanta, Hartford, Milwaukee and St. Louis have also used the proven SAW system to strengthen connections with local employers, create pathways for upward mobility and support WIA retention goals.

SAW serves as a bridge to college enrollment and job advancement. The NCRC provides both healthcare employers and WIBs with additional assurance that participants are qualified for advancement into high-demand career pathways in healthcare. Catalyst Learning Founder and CEO, Lynn Fischer, says that, “Since the inception of SAW, we have sought a portable credential that would be meaningful to our employer customers and their employees. SAW students are low-income workers who are 20-50 years of age. All but a handful have high school diplomas but their basic skills are not current. WorkKeys

assessments and the National Career Readiness Certificate represent the established standard that we've been looking for – it will assure the students and their employers that after completing SAW the essential skills are up-to-date.”

About Catalyst Learning

Catalyst Learning Company, a healthcare workforce development company based in Louisville, Ky., is the provider of School at Work®, Expanding your Career and Healthcare Opportunities™ and CareerCare®. SAW and ECHO are career development systems for entry and mid-level employees. The programs use a blended learning model, involving Internet and DVD technology, peer discussion and personal coaching. CareerCare is a web-based career planning tool designed exclusively for the healthcare industry. These products support Catalyst Learning's vision to dramatically increase the number of hard-working adults who are able to achieve the American dream. CLC is a female-owned small business. Learn more by visiting www.catalystlearning.com.

About ACT

ACT, Inc. is an internationally recognized provider of measurement and research expertise supporting comprehensive assessment systems for education and the workforce. In the 50 years since its founding, it developed and distributed assessment solutions that include the ACT® college admissions program, the National Career Readiness Certificate, the WorkKeys assessment system, and a broad array of other programs and services designed to help people achieve education and workplace success. For more information about the NCRC, visit <http://www.act.org/certificate/>.

WorkKeys is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc., in the U.S.A. and other countries.