

# PROPELLING HUMAN CAPITAL PRE AND POST COVID UTILIZING PORTABLE CREDENTIALING

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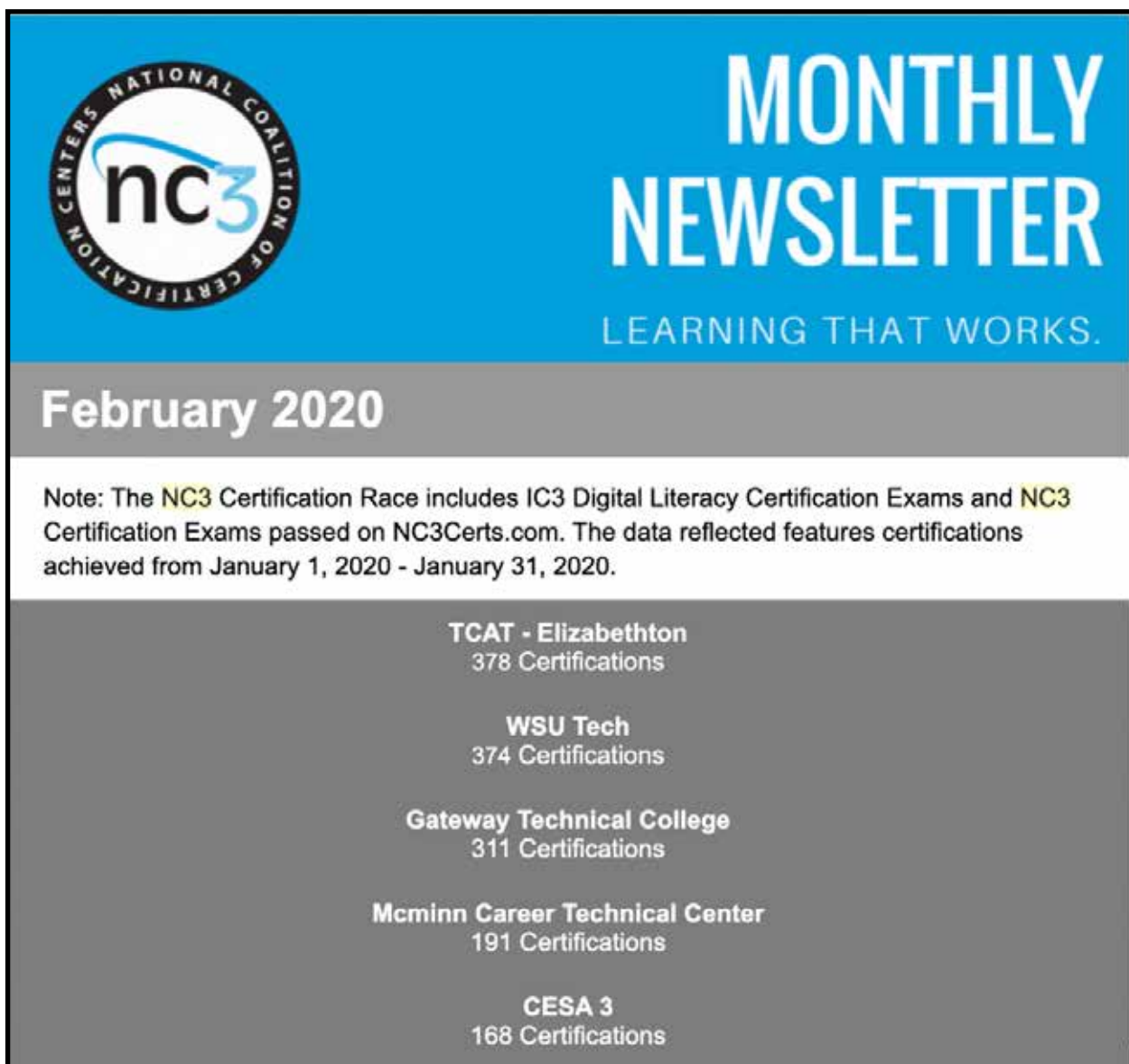
I have a question for all of our School Board Members: *Do those who wish to venture visually through this article remember what it was like pre-covid?*

I vaguely recall being able to schedule a monthly haircut. The weather, it occurs to me, was milder than normal and for this proud papa, our boy's basketball team was one game from state.

**Wow, did all of that change - March 13, 2020!**

Fast forward to October and as School Board Members items' that inundate you are far from normal. That is, except for your school district's commitment to portable credentialing.

Pre-covid, CESA 3 schools certified 168 students through CESA's offerings in Precision Measurement Instruments (PMI) and the Multimeter in just the first month of 2020. In fact, according to the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3, nc3.net), your schools' work placed CESA 3 as the 5th Best Training Center in the Country at the time!



The image shows the cover of a monthly newsletter. At the top left is the logo for the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3), which consists of a circular emblem with 'nc3' in the center and 'NATIONAL COALITION OF CERTIFICATION CENTERS' around the perimeter. To the right of the logo, the text 'MONTHLY NEWSLETTER' is written in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. Below this, the tagline 'LEARNING THAT WORKS.' is written in smaller white letters. A grey horizontal band across the middle contains the text 'February 2020' in white. Below the band, a white box contains a note: 'Note: The NC3 Certification Race includes IC3 Digital Literacy Certification Exams and NC3 Certification Exams passed on NC3Certs.com. The data reflected features certifications achieved from January 1, 2020 - January 31, 2020.' The bottom section of the cover is a dark grey area with white text listing certification counts for five institutions: TCAT - Elizabethton (378), WSU Tech (374), Gateway Technical College (311), McMinn Career Technical Center (191), and CESA 3 (168).

Institution	Certifications
TCAT - Elizabethton	378
WSU Tech	374
Gateway Technical College	311
McMinn Career Technical Center	191
CESA 3	168

As a region, our districts were on course to credentialing 2016 students in 2020, earning over 12,000 certifications while in the process. Such a staggering amount would not have been possible if it weren't for your leadership demanding that CESA 3 take the role to provide you no-cost options to propel students into becoming as career and life ready as possible.

Post-Covid, your professional educators are slowly utilizing (PMI) and the Multimeter certification kits as we speak, but with each passing week, I believe our educators will bust out to get students certified. Everyone is still figuring out the virtual approach and are overcoming its challenges.

Pre-Covid, CESA 3 was planning to unveil two weeks of training this past summer for Professional Educators in the area of Mechatronics (also called mechatronics engineering, is a multidisciplinary branch of engineering that focuses on the engineering of both electrical and mechanical systems, and also includes a combination of robotics, electronics, computer, telecommunications, systems control, and product engineering) and AC/DC Fundamentals. Post-Covid has put that on hold, but again CESA 3 is positioning educators to receive that professional development soon.

Post-Covid, in addition to Mechatronics, CESA 3 wrote, in conjunction with River Valley and Shullsburg, for two more certifications: the American Welding Society SENSE (Schools Excelling Through National Skills Education) Level I Welding and Snap-On's Mechanical and Electronic Torque certifications. The credentials represent our regional approach led by CESA 3 to position your students for whatever the world will look like Post-Covid.

As we all anticipate when a vaccine will come about, please continue to challenge us at CESA 3 to build capacity from within. In the Pre-Covid world, we were #5 in the country. Who is to say what we could be in this new normal?

The answer is we do.

You, me, our team, your school board, Mr. Nutter, your administration and of course, your students. What we do together the remainder of 2020 - 21 may well impact our world for years to come. In closing, thank you for inspiring us to live the cooperative spirit of CESA 3. Our team: Darla Burton, Deb Goold, Chuck Keller, Brian Kenney and I are always within an email or phone call of serving you. Service is in our name and its what we do.

Let's write a history together that no one will want to forget.