

## ***Same Name, Same Values: CAADE and Breining***

PRESS RELEASE (September, 2014): CAADE's Tiered System for the Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor (CATC) mirrors national standards proposed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) intended to promote a uniform national credentialing and licensure model for addiction counseling professionals. Those standards are already being implemented in many states, making CAADE a leader for addiction counselor certification in California and the nation.

In recognition of CAADE's strong influence over current legislation, such as with CAADE's efforts to protect the public and the profession by opposing SB570, and after many years of watching CAADE lead the way in California, the Breining Institute chose to collaborate with CAADE in transitioning their RAS counselors into the CATC Tiered System. Accreditation Advisor to the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Committee (NASAC), Dr. Lori Phelps said, "Having worked closely with national experts, it is clear that the CAADE tiered system is the inevitable best choice for California counselors and consumers of addiction treatment services." In our commitment to ensure sure that no counselor is left behind, CAADE is pleased to recognize Breining registrants and RAS Counselors as having met the minimum equivalency requirements for the basic CATC credential.

In keeping with the plan which was announced at the September 2014 *Substance Use Disorders Statewide Conference*, coordinated by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and sponsored by CAADE and Breining, CAADE has now integrated all education levels into its CATC Tiered System. The CAADE-Breining collaboration is part of an ongoing strategy designed to advance California's ultimate goal of offering a uniform and credible addiction counselor credential which meets the national standards.

In line with CAADE's stance on protecting the public and the profession, CAADE will not change the name of its CATC credential. Simply put, the CATC name is well respected and easily recognized by the public and by addiction professionals. The long history of excellence associated with CAADE and its CATC credential is well known by students, college and university faculty, employers, public organizations, and state and national leaders.

With the major changes and consolidations of other certifying organizations, the CATC is now the most recognizable credential for addiction counselors in California. Those who wish to obtain the leading credential and secure their future are invited to come into the CATC Tiered System. Keep or obtain the credential employers are now most likely to choose when hiring addiction professionals. CAADE will maintain the credential and the values upon which we have built a reputation for almost 30 years.