

Changing of the Guard at NARTE HQ

With the departure of Fatima Martins, our exam coordinator, we have added a new member to our staff. Kristen Hall is now working at NARTE HQ as our administrative assistant and Stephanie Fraser has taken over the exam program coordinator duties. Kristen comes to us



with many years experience as an administrative assistant who has worked as support for real estate companies and the FDIC. If you call in and hear an unfamiliar voice, it is probably her, so be sure to welcome her to the NARTE Staff!!

Focus Groups Review Delineation of Wireless Communications Engineering Technology Practice

By Rolf Frantz

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As reported last month, the Practice Analysis Task Force (PATF) generated a draft delineation of the domains (areas of responsibility), tasks, and knowledge that might be expected of a practitioner of Wireless Communications Engineering Technology (WCET). That delineation is being reviewed and refined at Focus Group meetings at 3GSM in Barcelona, WCNC in Hong Kong, CTIA WIRELESS 2007 in Orlando, and IEEE Region meetings in Regions 8, 9, and 10. Very constructive Focus Groups have already been held in Barcelona and Lima (Region 9).

Dr. Sandra Greenberg from Professional Examination Service, not-for-profit experts in certification development who are guiding ComSoc in creating the WCET certification program, facilitated the Barcelona sessions. According to Dr. Greenberg, these were among the most active Focus Groups she has led. Participants were asked to give three hours of their time for the discussions, but several experts were still discussing the delineation after over four hours of uninterrupted, energetic conversation. Former ComSoc President Celia Desmond (third from right in photo) led the Lima sessions, which were



attended by local experts from industry, government, and academia. Both groups were keen to help and put forward a number of ideas.

As might be expected, these subject matter experts were not hesitant to offer their best thoughts! All groups placed significant emphasis on the categories of knowledge that might be expected of a practitioner with three to five years of experience in wireless communications engineering technology. They clearly want these practitioners to have broad knowledge of all aspects of the technology as well as a depth of knowledge in a subset of areas. They want practitioners to know why things are done rather than specifying how to do them in great detail. All groups also provided detailed feedback for the PATF to consider when it meets later this spring, including restructuring and re-ordering of the domains and