



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **IBCCES Launches the Digital Badge for the Certified Autism Specialist Program and Transforms How Learning is Recognized and Valued**

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 – Jacksonville, Florida – IBCCES announces the launch of a secure Digital Badge for the Certified Autism Specialist Program. Caring for a person with autism is a great responsibility, and one of the most significant areas of this responsibility is making decisions regarding their healthcare and education. In the past, making these choices has often been very difficult, but fortunately recent changes are making these decisions easier than ever. The IBCCES (International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards) recently announced the full scale launch of their Digital Badge for the Certified Autism Specialist Program, allowing educators and healthcare professionals to boldly display their level of education and qualifications in a clear and easy to understand way in the digital environment. This breakthrough technology is managed by IBCCES in a secure digital environment and helps parents and other caregivers quickly identify the education and certifications for their Autism Specialist. Educators and healthcare professionals have been quick to embrace the new digital badge program.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan has called the use of digital badges a “game-changing strategy” for employers and potential employees alike. Similar feedback can be found from educators and healthcare professionals.

Digital Badges are trustworthy assessments of credentials that are housed and managed online under extremely high security. Digital Badges are designed to make visible, validate and verify learning in both formal and informal settings. The Digital Badge for the Certified Autism Specialist Program can be displayed by professionals in places like their webpages, resumes, Facebook and Linked In pages, and other social media accounts which makes it quick and easy for potential employers and clients to assess the level of their qualifications in the field of Autism.

According to IBCCES, some of the professionals taking advantage of the Digital Badge for the Certified Autism Specialist Program include: Special Education Teachers, Classroom Teachers, Special Education Directors, Counselors, School Psychologists, Behavior Specialists, School Counselors, School Nurses and Principals. Licensed Professionals are also reaping the Digital Badge Program benefits, including: Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, BCBA and ABA Professionals, Physical Therapists, Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, RN Nurses and Recreational Therapists.

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“Digital badges are transforming how learning is recognized and valued in the 21st century workplace. In addition to recognizing the formal education of a professional, they clearly highlight the certifications, specialized training and on the job experience in their field of expertise,” commented Myron Pincomb, Board Chairman IBCCES.

The application for a Certified Autism Specialist can be found directly on the IBCCES website. Once the applicant submits the required course work, each application is thoroughly reviewed and verified by the certification team and then sent to the IBCCES Board for approval. Once approved, an internationally recognized certification is issued and a secure Digital Badge is assigned to the newly Certified Autism Specialist. From start to finish, the process takes between four to five weeks.

### **About IBCCES**

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards ([IBCCES](http://www.ibcces.org)) was established in 2001 to meet the training and credentialing needs of professionals who work with individuals with special needs. IBCCES has since expanded into over 40 different countries with training centers and members across the globe.

Our Certified Autism Specialist, Board Certified Cognitive Specialist, and Certified Autism Center credentials were established with the highest standards in the industry. As a result, our programs have become the benchmark for those who work with cognitive disorders around the globe.

IBCCES created and hosts the annual International Symposium on Cognitive Research & Disorders. This global event brings together top neurologists, education leaders, and healthcare experts with a focus on research, innovation and collaboration.

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