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CBDCE Celebrates 35 Years of Certification in Diabetes Care and Education



(Arlington Heights, IL – September 2021) – The Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE) is proud to be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The organization was founded in 1986 to formalize and validate a specific body of knowledge for the multi-disciplinary healthcare practitioners who specialized in providing diabetes care and education.

Marjorie Cypress, PhD, MSN, NP, CDCES, was building a career in diabetes education and care in 1984, but there was no clear path or course of study to guide her. While considering what that career might look like, she found a group of like-minded individuals blazing a pathway to solve a growing health problem and establishing their role on the healthcare team. “We joked at the time that we learned this field ‘in the street,’ focusing our energy on finding ways to contribute to our community and defining our chosen specialty day by day,” Cypress recalls.

Two years later in 1986, when the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) was launched, Cypress and her colleagues joined nearly 1,250 health professionals from around the country to sit for the very first Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®) examination. Through the years, the number of individuals holding the CDE credential continued to grow. A change in the name of the profession in 2020 resulted in a name change for the organization and its credential. In 2021, there are just under 20,000 active Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (CDCESs). That number includes individuals from many different professions such as nurses, dietitian nutritionists, pharmacists, physicians, and many others. CDCESs share the common goal of advancing the specialty and providing essential care and education to people living with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

“As an organization, our goal was to contribute to the future vision for the profession and ensure CBDCE and the credential moved forward with that vision,” Sheryl Traficano, MBA, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of CBDCE, said. “The leadership focused on maintaining the standards of a quality certification program, while staying open to how the specialty and professionals we serve in a multi-disciplinary field can grow and change.” As CBDCE reflects on the accomplishments of the past 35 years, the organization’s leadership stays focused on the future. [Read full article here.](#)

About CBDCE: CBDCE, formed in 1986 and celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, is a national not-for-profit certifying board that administers the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) program. The CDCES program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, and just under 20,000 health professionals in the diabetes care and education community hold the CDCES credential. CBDCE’s mission is to promote comprehensive and ongoing quality diabetes clinical management, education, prevention and support by defining, developing, maintaining, and protecting the certification and credentialing processes. Learn more at www.cbdce.org or connect with us on Facebook (CertifiedDiabetesEducators) and LinkedIn (Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education).

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