



For Immediate Release

CPDM Curriculum to be Revamped

San Diego, California. 7/29/08. In response to rapid and important changes across the entire disability and absence management field, the Certified Professional in Disability Management (CPDM) curriculum is undergoing a complete rewrite. Based on feedback from the Disability Management Employer Coalition's (DMEC's) employer and sponsor boards, and a recent survey completed by over 150 CPDM designation holders, all three courses are being updated with today's more complex concepts and issues.

The new curriculum team is led by Adrienne Paler, Regional Manager for Disability and ADA with Providence Health & Services; and Loyd Hudson, Manager Integrated Disability for American Electric Power. "These two individuals represent some of the best minds and programs from DMEC membership. They have been recognized for their own innovative and successful integrated disability and absence management programs. They bring not only well-honed knowledge but practical solutions and tools that employers need," explains Marcia Carruthers, CPDM, CEO and President of DMEC.

The new CPDM 1 course will debut September 17 in an online, instructor-led format with Adrienne Paler as the course instructor. CPDM 2 and CPDM 3 will be rolled out in 2009. Feedback from the inaugural CPDM course also will be used to create an additional version of CPDM 1 in a self-directed online self-study course for those who prefer this format. That version will be available later this year.

Over 1200 disability management professionals have earned the CPDM designation, which has been co-sponsored by DMEC and the Insurance Educational Association (IEA) since its launch 12 years ago. Created by DMEC co-founder Sharon Kaleta, the 3-course designation series is unique in that:

- Instructors are active participants in the field;
- Qualifications are based on job experience, not a degree;
- Continuing education is available through DMEC chapter and regional programs; and
- Classes are available at the worksite, in the classroom, or online with an instructor.

According to Joe Wozniak, CPDM, DMEC Board member, "CPDM graduates are trained to make global decisions instead of silo decisions. This results in programs that take into consideration key stakeholders, benefits plans, legal ramifications and the bottom line impact. These recent updates will keep students current and materials responsive to industry changes. No other certification can make this claim!"

About DMEC

The Disability Management Employer Coalition (DMEC) is a non-profit organization that provides educational resources to employers in the areas of disability, absence, health, and productivity. The

--More --

primary goal of DMEC is to assist employers in developing cost-saving programs, encouraging responsive market products, and returning employees to productive employment. Visit www.dmec.org for more information about educational publications and events.

Contact

Disability Management Employer Coalition

Contact: Rebecca Milot-Bradford

970.824.1974, membership@dmec.org