

## GCSAA Certification Program Celebrates 25th Year

The educational process, the foundation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) existence, is spotlighted this fall as the organization's certification program celebrates its 25th year of operation.

Established Sept. 1, 1971, the original nine-member Certification Committee was charged with developing a comprehensive program to promote the professionalism of golf course superintendents and make the program recognized worldwide. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation is bestowed upon completion of the project, recognizing achievement of professional excellence. As the game of golf, the golf industry and the superintendent profession has changed.. so too has the certification program. To ensure the program addresses industry changes, GCSAA's Certification Committee is constantly evaluating the requirements.

"Over the years, the term CGCS has taken on worldwide importance for superintendents and their employers," said GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS. "It truly is a measure of professional excellence in our industry."

To begin the certification process, individuals must be currently employed as a golf course superintendent, have completed a level of post-second@ education, possess superintendent experience and pursue GCSAA seminar continuing education units (CEUs). After fulfilling those requirements, the applicant has one year to complete a comprehensive six-part examination and go through the attesting process. The examination covers the areas of GCSAA knowledge; the game and the rules of golf, turfgrass management; pest control, safety and compliance; financial management; and organizational management. In addition, two certified golf course superintendents evaluate the applicant's course conditions, maintenance facility, recordkeeping and communication skills.

The popularity of the program is measured by a growing number of participants, from 47 certified the first year to 144 certified in 1995. Of the 2,175 superintendents certified in the last quarter century, 1,609 are active in the profession and continue to maintain certified status through continuing education. To renew certification status superintendents must complete a recertification program every five years. Recertification is attained by completing 100 hours of GCSAA continuing education units or successful completion of the initial certification examination.



Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of GCSAA's Certification Program

The Certification Committee will recognize superintendents certified in 1996 and those with 15-, 20- and 25-year anniversaries at the Feb. 10th Certification Luncheon at the 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas, the association provides education, information and representation to more than 16,700 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

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