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ALUMNI OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY PA PROGRAM NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Johns Creek, GA, Jan. 23, 2017 – Two Certified Physician Assistants who graduated from the Chatham University PA Program, were recently awarded a specialty credential called a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

- Andrew Link, PA-C, graduated in 2012. Link is employed by Fairview Health Services in Fridley, Minnesota. He received the CAQ in Orthopaedic Surgery, a distinction earned by meeting licensure, education and experience requirements and then passing a national exam in the specialty. He is the only PA in Minnesota to earn a CAQ in Orthopaedic Surgery since the program's inception in 2011.
- Stefanie (Proviano) Shopa, PA-C, graduated in 2009. Shopa is employed by Penn Medicine Orthopaedic Surgery in Philadelphia. She also received the CAQ in Orthopaedic Surgery, and is one of only four PAs in Pennsylvania to earn a CAQ in Orthopaedic Surgery since the program's inception in 2011.

“Certified PAs are prepared and proven providers who contribute real value to the healthcare of this nation,” says Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “They graduate from demanding masters-level programs, pass a rigorous certification exam, and maintain certification at the highest level through continuing medical education programs and retesting throughout their careers. Certified PAs increase access to care for patients in every specialty and clinical setting, including those that are historically underserved.”

CAQs are offered to certified PAs in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, emergency medicine, hospital medicine, orthopaedic surgery, nephrology, pediatrics and psychiatry.

About the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

The [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\)](http://www.nccpa.net) is the only certifying organization for physician assistants (PAs) in the United States. The PA-C credential is awarded by NCCPA to PAs who fulfill certification, certification maintenance and recertification requirements. There are more than 115,500 certified PAs in the U.S. today. For more information, visit www.PAsDoThat.net.

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