Dr. Gross Retires From NBEO After 28 Years

CHARLOTTE, NC, July 17, 2008 | Dr. Janet Carter, NBEO President, announced that Dr. Leon Gross, Associate Executive Director and Director of Psychometrics & Research, has retired from the National Board after serving for 28 years. “Throughout this period, Leon guided all of the scientific and technical aspects of the examinations, including several major restructures and the development of new state-of-the-art assessments. His impact was broad and he will be missed,” Carter said.

Gross added that part of what made the National Board a great place to work was that it was constantly evolving. “The downside of that,” he said, “is that leaving can never come at an opportune time.” But, he added, after the successful Board move and transition from Maryland to North Carolina, it was a logical time to step back.

Under Gross’ direction, NBEO became the first national board for a fully licensed doctoral level health profession to eliminate grading on a curve, and the first to implement a national clinical skills assessment. He also led the Board in implementation of the candidate test critique and test incident procedures, which provided candidates the opportunity for input in quality control measures, and in development of one of the most comprehensive, detailed candidate score report formats in the testing industry.

Dr. Steven Eyler, a former NBEO President added, “The influence of Leon’s developmental work is palpable in Optometry world-wide, and has helped the profession to grow. The examination programs in Canada, Europe, and Australia display his impact, as do examination programs in other professions.”

In addition to his test development and number crunching responsibilities, Dr. Gross represented NBEO extensively in the psychometric and regulatory communities. He served as a commissioner for the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, a division of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) that accredits examination programs. In this capacity, he served on two Commission standards development task forces, and as the Commission’s representative at testing industry hearings for revisions to Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing.

Dr. Gross also served on the Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR), and chaired its Examination Policies and Procedures Committee. In addition, he was the founding editor of the CLEAR Exam Review (now in its 19th year), and principal co-author of Principles of Fairness: An Examining Guide for Credentialing Boards, a monograph jointly published by NOCA and CLEAR.

Currently, he serves on the Personnel Certification Accreditation Committee of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and has chaired its Psychometrics Committee.
Dr. Gross was also honored to serve on a panel to review the Aviation Security Screener Certification Program of the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration.

In addition to these volunteer activities, Dr. Gross served on several research journal manuscript review and editorial boards, and authored numerous articles and monographs. He has been a frequent presenter at national regulatory conferences and ARBO meetings, and has given workshops and seminars on testing issues at each of the U.S. schools and colleges of Optometry. “Leon has been a tremendous resource to the profession,” commented former NBEO President Dr. Gerald Lowther.

Although retiring from NBEO, Gross anticipates ongoing work in psychometrics, with continued service on professional standards committees and as a psychometric consultant.” Smiling as he reflected on his 28 years of service at the National Board, he noted how fortunate he’s been. “I am very grateful to this Board of Directors and the many prior Boards and Directors for the support and creative opportunities they provided. It’s been a great run.”

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