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**ALUMNUS OF UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT RIO GRANDE VALLEY PA PROGRAM
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED**

Johns Creek, GA, March 21, 2017 – Juliana Abreu, PA-C, a certified physician assistant who graduated in 2012 from the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley PA Program, was recently awarded a specialty credential called a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Abreu received the CAQ in Nephrology, a distinction earned by meeting licensure, education and experience requirements and then passing a national exam in the specialty. She is employed at Northwest Louisiana Nephrology in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Abreu cites her credential as a commitment to continue to provide quality care for patients.

“The CAQ has tremendously added to my expertise in my area of specialty,” she said. “It gives both physicians and patients added confidence that I am the most qualified to diagnose, treat and establish relationships to help patients overcome the burden of living with kidney disease.”

“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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