

Contact:

Michelle Bauer
Bisk Education
813-621-6200 x4168 office
727-510-2524 cell
Michelle-bauer@bisk.com

NTIS and University Alliance Sign Agreement to Provide Online Professional Education Programs to Government Employees

Tampa, Fla. (May 12, 2008) – University Alliance, the nation’s largest online provider of professional education, and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) are partnering to offer new professional development and certification opportunities for federal employees. The NTIS, a division of the U. S. Department of Commerce, is the largest central resource for government-funded scientific, technical, engineering, and business related information.

The agreement, which has an initial term of five years, offers federal employees the opportunity to earn master and professional certificates in the most in-demand business disciplines in the federal government today and save up to 10% on their course tuition and fees. The certificate programs, which include specializations such as Six Sigma, project management, and supply chain management, are taught 100% online by university faculty and expert instructors from the nation’s top ranked, accredited institutions.

Program details may be found online [here](#).

“The NTIS recognizes that ongoing professional education is essential to ensure that federal employees have the most up-to-date skills in their fields,” said Nathan Bisk, chairman of Bisk Education, the parent company of University Alliance. “This agreement helps federal employees advance their careers by earning highly sought after credentials from prestigious academic institutions such as Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business, and Thunderbird School of Global Management. By taking their courses online, they can fit their education around their busy lives and schedules, and enjoy significant savings as well. We couldn’t be happier than to have this opportunity to partner with the NTIS.”

Shannon Burrington, associate director of the NTIS, agrees the new relationship will benefit federal employees and their employers.

“These programs offered by University Alliance are at the leading edge of what federal employees need in terms of their continuing professional education,” said Burrington. “The technology University Alliance uses to deliver the programs is top notch and allows our employees the flexibility to further their education with leading universities while tending to the demands of daily life. That is a win-win for everyone involved.”

University Alliance offers numerous other certificates in contract management, information systems security, human resources and organizational management, negotiation, and international business. All course content is provided by University Alliance’s regionally accredited, top U.S. News & World Report ranked leaders in online education, including Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business, Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the University of San Francisco.

University Alliance’s parent company, Bisk Education, will also offer through the NTIS partnership a certificate in Excellence in Corporate Governance. This program, a joint venture between Tulane University Law School and Bisk Education, is the first online professional education certificate program designed specifically for corporate managers, officers, auditors, legal professionals and others responsible for compliance issues.

In addition, Bisk Education will extend to accounting professionals in the federal government workforce special pricing on continuing professional education. Bisk’s CPEasy brand offers multiple programs for continuing professional education for accountants including courses in taxation, accounting and auditing, regulatory ethics, management as well as specialized knowledge offerings. Accounting professionals have the option of taking Bisk’s CPE classes 100% online, on DVD or CD-Rom, as a standard book-based course, or a combination of any or all three. CPEasy is America’s best selling CPE program, having awarded over 14 million CPE credit hours to public and industry CPAs since its inception in 1971.

About the National Technical Information Service

The National Technical Information Service serves as the largest central resource for government-funded scientific, technical, engineering, and business related information available today. For more than 60 years NTIS has assured businesses, universities, and the public timely access to approximately 3 million publications covering over 350 subject areas.

Their mission supports the Department of Commerce mission to promote the nation's economic growth by providing access to information that stimulates innovation and discovery. Find out more at www.NTIS.gov.

About Bisk Education

Bisk Education was founded in 1971 as a provider of continuing education programs for working professionals. Since its inception, Bisk Education has grown to become the nation's largest exclusive facilitator of online degree and certificate programs from the nation's leading universities, offering end-to-end, lifelong-learning solutions that allow working adults to reach their personal and professional goals through education. Visit the company's web site at www.bisk.com.

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