

**Digital Symposium Garners Sponsors and Record Attendance** *Part 1 of National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling*

**Washington, DC (July 30, 2020)** – The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) thanks the sponsors of the Digital Symposium, which was held July 20 – 23, 2020. It represented Part One of the 34th National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling, replacing the previously planned Pre-Conference Workshops. The Main Conference and new Master Classes are Parts Two and Three, planned for in-person sessions in Washington DC, Nov. 4 – 6. The organization is closely monitoring DC and federal health guidelines in order to ensure the safety of conference attendees.

Over $27,500 in direct support was contributed for the Symposium by sponsors, including significant underwriting from two tribal gaming operators - the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians of California and Mohegan Sun of Connecticut. Additional sponsors included the Virginia Lottery, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and TrueLink Financial. Training Sponsorships came from the Ohio Lottery Commission and the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. These organizations also provide additional support as corporate members of NCPG. All sponsorship contributions support the conference and the work of the National Council on Problem Gambling, which receives no Federal funding.

NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte said, “The support from our sponsors was crucial to the success of the Symposium. Their contributions helped ensure that problem gambling and responsible gambling education could reach both local and global audiences in the most challenging year of our organization. We cannot thank them enough and look forward to collaborating with them on more projects in the future.”

The Symposium was held over four afternoons Eastern Time in order to facilitate participation by attendees from time zones across the country and around the world, including the United Kingdom and Australia. There were a record 347 registrants, including groups from DC Lottery, Howard University, the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, New York Council on Problem Gambling, Georgia, Maine, Kansas, and Pennsylvania (35 states in all); as well as 8 countries, including Australia, Austria, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Registrants numbered roughly triple the number that usually attend the Pre-Conference Workshops at the National Conference.

The Symposium provided high-quality educational sessions with 25 experts and innovators in 29 sessions, offering attendees up to 16 Continuing Education Units. Treatment providers for disordered gambling are required to attend sessions approved for gambling-specific CEUs for licensure each year, which are currently very difficult to obtain due to the pandemic. The program was designed for stakeholders from government agencies, gaming operators and suppliers, treatment providers, research and academic groups, and the recovery community. Presentations included content on Tribal Matters and there was at least one session each day designed by NCPG's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, focused on experiences of the Black community in problem gambling.

**About the National Conference on Gambling Addiction &**

**Responsible Gambling**

The National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling brings together diverse stakeholders to provide expert training to problem gambling and gambling professionals from across the nation. Over 600 attendees (in normal years) specializing in the areas of treatment, prevention, education, research, judicial, regulatory, legislative, and other fields, as well as the recovery community, come together in person. Special summits are held to focus on topics including regulatory issues, tribal responsible gambling, and sports betting, with threads of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion woven throughout.

**About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

NCPG is the national advocate for people and families affected by problem gambling. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gambling. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline Network at 1-800-522-4700 or visit [www.ncpgambling.org/chat](http://www.ncpgambling.org/chat) for confidential help.