

**For Immediate Release**

**19 August 2013**

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GENEALOGICAL STUDIES MARKS ITS 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN PROVIDING ONLINE GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE**

To help their students meet the expectations of a growing genealogical consumer community, The National Institute for Genealogical Studies announced today their new certificate program in Professional Development.

“This certificate fills an important niche for the genealogy community” says Louise St Denis, Managing Director of the National Institute. Louise adds, “After 15 years of providing genealogical education we felt it was time to expand our offerings to include an eleventh certificate especially designed for those working in the field of genealogy.”

Of the certificate program, National Institute instructor and professional genealogist Melanie D. Holtz, CG stated “Having a solid foundation in professional genealogy is key to your success, whether you are just beginning your business or seeking ways to expand your knowledge and experience. The National Institute for Genealogical Studies’ new Professional Development Certificate is unique in that you reap the benefits of the knowledge and experiences of multiple genealogists who have walked this road before you. The new Professional Development certificate with numerous in-depth skill-building courses, will bring strength to the learning experience.”

**Professional Development Certificate**

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies offers eleven Certificate Programs including the Professional Development Program. Courses in this new program include, Transcribing, Abstracting, & Extracting - Career Development: Choosing a Niche - Creating Programs for Adults & the Younger Generation - Organizing a One Name Study - Lecturing - Forensic Genealogy - Genealogy and Copyright - Palaeography - Document Analysis - DNA - Marketing - House and Farm Histories - One Place Studies - Analysis and Skills Mentoring - Methodology

To learn more about The National Institute’s Certificate Programs, see their website at <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>.

**Gena Philibert-Ortega Appointed Director of Professional Development**

Gena Philibert-Ortega has been appointed the new Director of Professional Development at the

National Institute. In her new position, Gena Philibert-Ortega will be reviewing, updating and overseeing the addition of courses to the program.

St Denis commented “We are excited to have Gena Philibert-Ortega’s involvement in our Professional Development program. Gena has had a successful full-time genealogy career for over 12 years and her experience will assist others as they transition to professional work or continue in their careers.”

Gena said “I’m excited about this opportunity to bring courses designed for those interested in professional genealogy. I’m looking forward to continuing to grow the program to meet the needs of the genealogy community.”

Gena Philibert-Ortega holds a Master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology and Women’s Studies) and a Master’s degree in Religion. Presenting on various subjects involving genealogy, women’s studies and social history, Gena has spoken to groups throughout the United States as well as virtually to audiences worldwide. Gena is the author of hundreds of articles published in genealogy newsletters and magazines including *FGS Forum*, *APG Quarterly*, *Internet Genealogy*, *Family Chronicle* and *Family Tree Magazine*. Her writings can also be found on her blogs, Gena’s Genealogy and Food.Family.Ephemera. She is the author of the books, *From The Family Kitchen* (F + W Media, 2012), *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007) and *Putting the Pieces Together*. Gena is currently the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association’s journal *Crossroads*. An instructor for the The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Gena has written courses about social media and Google. She serves as President for the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is a board member of the Utah Genealogical Association. Her current research interests include women’s social history, community cookbooks, signature quilts and researching women’s lives using material artifacts.

Everyone at The National Institute welcomes Gena Philibert-Ortega to her new position and looks forward to the growth of the Professional Development Certificate.

### **Enroll Now for a Special Offer**

Enroll now in the Professional Development Certificate and receive 10% off your course package. Use code FGS2013 or call 1-800-580-0165 to receive this discount. Hurry! This code expires September 30, 2013. Payment plans are available.

### **About The National Institute for Genealogical Studies**

The National Institute, leaders in online genealogy education, have been offering genealogy and history courses for over 15 years. Helping genealogists and family historians build a foundation for research excellence, The National Institute offers over 200 courses in genealogical studies to help enhance the researcher’s skills.

For those looking to acquire more formal educational training, The National Institute offers eleven Certificate Programs in the records of Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, and the United States, as well as a General Methodology, Librarianship, and now Professional Development.

For more information please visit our site at <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/> or call us toll-free in North America at [1-800-580-0165](tel:1-800-580-0165) or email us at [admin@genealogicalstudies.com](mailto:admin@genealogicalstudies.com).

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