



## State of Wisconsin / Educational Approval Board

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### **EAB Approves Wisconsin's First Degree Program in Massage Therapy**

Madison – Beginning the fall of 2006, students seeking to be a massage therapist will have the training option of pursuing an associate's degree. The Educational Approval Board (EAB) recently gave approval to Lakeside School of Massage Therapy (Milwaukee and Madison) to offer a 64-credit Occupational Associate's Degree in Massage Therapy.

According to David C. Dies, executive secretary of the EAB, the Lakeside program is believed to be the first degree program in massage therapy in Wisconsin. "Lakeside has been a leader in the field of massage therapy. They were the first Wisconsin institution to be accredited by the Commission in Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA), a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education," Dies said.

The EAB program approval was based on the review, recommendation, and expertise of COMTA. During the approval process, school officials noted that past graduates and the massage therapy community have expressed a great need for advanced education in massage therapy. According to Carole Ostendorf, Ph.D./CEO of Lakeside Contemporary Health Services Corporation, the school expanded on their 750-hour program and added advanced education and training in exercise, nutrition, pharmacology, orthopedic testing, assessment, research, and massage therapy techniques.

"Currently, the EAB approves 17 massage therapy schools in Wisconsin which graduate more than 600 massage therapists a year," stated Dies. "The decision by Lakeside to offer an associate's degree reflects the maturation of massage therapy in Wisconsin," he added.

The Educational Approval Board is an independent state agency responsible for protecting Wisconsin's consumers by regulating and monitoring for-profit postsecondary schools; out-of-state, non-profit colleges and universities; and in-state, non-profit institutions incorporated after January 1992. The EAB currently oversees 140 schools serving more than 34,000 adults in degree and diploma programs.

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