

# Second annual Competency-Based Theological Education (CBTE) conference offers registration discount for ATS schools

BY RUTH MCGILLIVRAY AND STEPHEN R. GRAHAM

*One of the most creative approaches to graduate theological education highlighted in the ATS Educational Models and Practices project was Competency-Based Theological Education (CBTE). A peer group with representatives from nine schools explored this innovative model and prepared a report on its work. In order to support schools working in this area, the Association awarded innovation grants to five schools exploring various aspects of CBTE as well as three faculty development grants to facilitate understanding of the impact of CBTE on faculty work. Included in those grants were two schools approved by the ATS Board of Commissioners to use experimental programs in CBTE—Northwest Baptist Seminary and Grace Theological Seminary. An innovation grant to Northwest Baptist Seminary provided partial support for the first CBTE conference within the Association.*

Following the tremendous response to last year's CBTE conference in Vancouver, plans for the second annual CBTE conference are well underway with ATS member schools eligible for a registration discount.



**October 22-25, 2019**  
Hyatt Regency Indian Wells, Palm Springs, CA, USA

**CBTE 2019 is a dedicated track at CBExchange 2019**

Attend one conference and get the best of two –

- Connect with experts and peers on competency-based theological education (CBTE)
- Learn from thought leaders and peers on latest CBE research, design models and materials
- Attend CBTE-dedicated sessions alongside 100+ additional CBExchange presentations

[www.cbte.ca](http://www.cbte.ca) [www.cbexchange.org](http://www.cbexchange.org)

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CBTE 2019 will be held in partnership with the Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN), as a specialized track at [CBExchange 2019](http://www.cbexchange.org) on Oct 22 to 25, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells in Palm Springs, California. Participants will be able to attend one conference and get the benefit of two.

The event will begin with a CBTE-only pre-meeting on Oct 22, followed by an opening reception for both CBTE and C-BEN attendees. CBTE participants will join in CBEXchange keynote and plenary sessions each day, and then have the option to attend C-BEN or CBTE-specific breakout sessions. Each day will include a period of shared discussion among CBTE participants on what they are learning as a group, the application of competency based educational developments in the context of theological education, and the identification of outstanding issues or needs.

Last year's inaugural conference—CBTE 2018—was organized by Northwest Baptist Seminary, funded in part by an innovation grant from ATS through the Educational Models and Practices project. As the first event of its kind, the focus was on awareness of CBTE as an educational model and offered the opportunity to hear from multiple leaders who advocate for CBTE in one location.

This year, CBTE 2019 is being organized by the newly formed CBTE Advocacy Group, a broader, more diverse group led by representatives from: ATS, ABHE, In Trust Center for Theological Schools, C-BEN, Lexington Theological Seminary, Grace Seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary, and Northwest Baptist Seminary. The group's purpose is to advocate for and explore CBTE as an educational philosophy and to facilitate education on CBTE; as a result, this year's conference will take a different approach.

At CBTE 2019, theological educators will learn alongside their peers in other disciplines about the latest developments in competency-based education (CBE) from top experts in the field, and then gather periodically throughout the conference to share ideas and discuss common and unique aspects of the theological context. CBTE-specific breakout sessions will also be offered on topics including:

- ATS accreditation guidelines in relation to CBTE delivery models
- CBTE as an educational philosophy and what makes it distinct from CBE
- Diverse program delivery models using the CBTE philosophy
- CBTE curriculum development workshops
- Faculty and mentor roles and models in CBTE program delivery

CBTE 2019 is an opportunity for theological educators to gather as peers and explore one of the most exciting innovations in theological education in decades. ATS is pleased to support this event by subsidizing the cost for representatives from ATS schools to attend. The first 25 ATS schools to register will be given a discount code for \$500 off the CBExchange registration fee (one per school). For maximum cost savings, register prior to the early bird registration deadline of June 1, 2019. If you would like to take advantage of the ATS discount code, please contact Ruth McGillivray at [cbte@nbseminary.ca](mailto:cbte@nbseminary.ca).



Ruth McGillivray is Chief Innovation Officer at Northwest Baptist Seminary in Langley, British Columbia, and Stephen R. Graham is Senior Director of Programs and Services at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

