



EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Ranks 6th Nationally in NBPTS Certification Results

Kentucky Gains 88 New National Board Certified Teachers

Frankfort, KY. (December 4, 2015) Kentucky moves even closer to meeting its Legislative goal of having at least one National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in every public school with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' announcement that 88 teachers in the Commonwealth have achieved the prestigious National Board Certification. Kentucky is ranked 6th in the number of teachers earning National Board Certification for the first time and 90 Kentucky teachers achieved renewal of their Board certification. National Board Certification demonstrates that teachers have attained the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for college and career success. Kentucky's has 3,273 teachers who have achieved credentials as an NBCT, ranking it 9th overall in the nation for the total number of Board certified teachers.

Kentucky unflinching ranks in the top ten nationally for the total number of NBCTs. "Since its launch, Kentucky's National Board program, and its partnerships to support Kentucky teachers pursuing National Board Certification, has proved to be a model," said James Adams, Executive Director of the Education Professional Standards Board. "It is with tremendous pleasure that I congratulate each of these educators for their extraordinary commitment to the education of Kentucky's children and for achieving the highest credential in the teaching profession."

Floyd County Public Schools experienced the largest percentage school district gain in the number of new NBCTs with ten new Board certified teachers. Henry Webb, Floyd County Public Schools Superintendent, said: "The board team and I are thrilled to see our teachers taking on this challenging program and obtaining their National Board Certification. We are proud of their accomplishments and it's exciting to hear them talk about how much they've learned through this process. These team members are wonderful examples of how dedicated our people are to getting better and better for KIDS."

The school district with the most teachers earning Board certification this year was Jefferson County Public Schools which had a total of 18 new NBCTs. “Achieving National Board certification is a rigorous process through which teachers learn new ideas and methods that benefit not only their own students, but students throughout their schools and the district as they share what they’ve learned with their colleagues,” said Dr. Donna Hargens, Jefferson County Public Schools Superintendent. “The process requires a level of sacrifice that marks a truly dedicated professional, and JCPS is proud to employ more than 400 National Board Certified teachers, including the 16 newly certified teachers this year.” JCPS also has the largest number of NBCTs for all Kentucky school districts.

Kentucky has strong statewide support for National Board Certification. NBCTs are entitled to an annual \$2,000 salary bonus for the life of their certificate. Upon successful completion of the National Board Certification process, Kentucky teachers currently holding a Rank II certificate are eligible to apply for Rank I and may serve as mentors for Kentucky’s aspiring NBPTS candidates.

Kentucky was chosen as one of six initial sites to participate in the U.S. Department of Education Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant, the Kentucky Education Association (KEA), the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board are partnering to expand the number of NBCTs across the Commonwealth and place NBCTs in instructional leadership roles in high-need schools. By participating in the SEED initiative, our partners can further support additional efforts to improve and build the career continuum for all teachers. As part of this initiative, Kentucky’s NBCTs will help lead the way in leadership areas such as teacher evaluation and serve as Education Recovery Specialists in priority schools. Kentucky Education Association President Stephanie Winkler, said: "KEA applauds the hard work and perseverance of the teachers that achieved National Board Certification this year. Our sincere congratulations go out to all of these professionals that exemplify the highest standards of the teaching profession!"

Through National Board Certification, teachers demonstrate that their teaching meets the profession’s standards for accomplished practice through a rigorous, peer-reviewed and performance-based process, similar to professional certification in fields such as medicine. More than a decade of research confirms that students taught by Board-certified teachers learn more than students taught by other teachers. Saluting the nation’s newest NBCTs, Peggy Brookins, NBCT and President and CEO of National Board, said: “Helping teachers perform at their best is at the heart of the National Board. Today we announce that 1,826 teachers earned their National Board Certification while 2,903 have renewed Board certification. Just as I was when I achieved this milestone, these teachers should be extraordinarily proud as they have met the profession’s highest standards. The public should be equally pleased because these teachers have measurable knowledge and skills that will advance student learning.” To date, more than 112,000 teachers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia have achieved National Board Certification.

National Board Certification is available in 25 certificate areas from Pre-K–12th grades. National Board Standards are written for teachers, by teachers and accomplished teachers are represented at every level of the organization, from key staff roles to the NBPTS Board of Directors and the Certification Council, which guides policy and implementation of the certification program.

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About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (www.nbpts.org):

The founding mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of

teaching and learning by: (1) maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; (2) providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and (3) advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers. Recognized as the “gold standard” in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.