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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** SEWELL  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS: TALKING POINTS  
**DATE:** 2/26/03  
**CC:** MAYO

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Lee Ann asked me to send this info to you for the Governor's interview tomorrow night about the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was created in 1987 after the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy's Task Force on Teaching as a Profession released *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century* (May 16, 1986).
- The National Board is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental organization governed by a 63-member [board of directors](#), a majority of whom are classroom teachers. The other directors include school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, and business and community leaders.
- Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and former Governor Jim Hunt (North Carolina) serve on the board with the Governor.
- Mississippi was one of the first states to offer a financial incentive package for teachers to complete the certification process, including:
  1. \$6,000 annual bonus
  2. Reimbursement of \$2,300 fee if process
- Mississippi had 321 new National Board Certified Teachers in 2002 (ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in 50 states).
- Mississippi has 1,459 total NBCTs, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
- We believe that our continued investment in NBCTs is critical to ensuring that our children have a qualified teacher leading their classroom.

- We are proud of our teachers that undergo rigorous National Board certification and we want them to know that we are proud of them. The Governor personally hosts a reception for our new NBCTs each year. He hosted this year's reception on February 5, the same day he signed the Education First appropriation bills.
- Mississippi has gone the extra mile in supporting our National Board Certified Teachers by creating the World Class Teaching Program, which was created by legislation in 1996. The Program provides mentoring for teachers pursuing National Board certification and it also provides professional development in areas such as standards and assessment to National Board pre-candidates. The World-Class Teaching Program operates at 6 sites in Mississippi: MSU, USM, USM/Gulf Coast, Ole Miss, Delta State and JSU.
- The World Class Teaching Program is based on the premise of the National Writing Project that "the best teacher of a teacher is another teacher." This mentoring process has been shown to improve teachers' chances of certifying.
- Investing in education, including our teachers, is an investment in our future and we don't want to short change our future.