

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Directors

From: Betty Castor, President

Date: August 19, 2002

Re: News from the National Board

I am pleased to share with you the news from a busy summer at the National Board.

National Board Certification – 2002/03

You will be pleased to learn that 4,427 candidates have already applied for 2002/03 as of August 10, 2002. This is an increase of 892 since July 28. We averaged 59 applications per day during the month of July. And so far in August, we have averaged 69 applications per day.

National Board Certification – 2001/02

I am pleased to report that scoring for 2001/02 is now completed. I am sure you will be interested in the following impressive statistics:

Volume of work: 19,245 active candidates
About 58,000 portfolio entries
About 87,000 assessment center exercises

Scoring logistics: 10 training/benchmarking sessions for 24 certificates
31 scoring sessions and 250 scoring rooms

Where: 23 different cities/locations in 16 states and District of Columbia. States in which scoring sites were located: Colorado, Florida [Miami, Daytona Beach, and Ft. Lauderdale], Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey [West Windsor and Mt. Laurel], North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma [Tulsa and Oklahoma City], Pennsylvania, South Carolina [Clemson and Columbia], Texas [San Antonio and Dallas], Virginia.

Number of Teachers Involved: approximately 3,400 assessors, 250 trainers (30% are NBCTs), over 600 validators, and 41 scoring directors (26% are NBCTs)

Institutions Providing Graduate Credit: Emporia State University, George Mason University, Indiana State University, The College of New Jersey, Winston Salem State University, University of Nevada—Las Vegas (in NV only), Clemson University, Howard University, and Jackson State University.

Board members observing scoring included Robert Singleton, Carolyn Williams, Josie Pena Marshall, Keith Cothrun, Kyle Dahlem, and Yvonne Allen.

National Board Academy

The **9th National Board Academy** was held July 24-27 in Seattle, Washington. Approximately 220 were in attendance representing 39 states and the District of Columbia. Attendees included teachers, NBCTs, administrators, representatives from higher education, state and local leaders and the business community.

At the annual Academy Award brunch, the “moral compass” award was given to Board Chair, Barbara Kelley, for her leadership and guidance.

The theme, “Taking National Board Certification to New Heights: Improving Student Learning,” focused on ways the National Board Certification process and NBCTs can be used to improve student achievement. To that end, conference sessions examined current issues, such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and ways the NBC process can assist states and local districts in meeting new federal requirements and their own goals for better teaching and learning. Speakers and guests included Dr. William Sanders, SAS Institute and noted education researcher, and Dr. Charles R. Coble, Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Quality, Education Commission of the States.

Additional sessions centered around teacher leadership issues, professional development, using NBCTs as instructional capital and highlighted such locales as Minneapolis, Idaho, the North Central Regional Educational Lab (NCREL) in Indiana.

Teaching America About Accomplished Teaching

This past weekend in Cincinnati, the NBCT Leadership program sponsored its second “Teaching America” conference. Over 100 NBCTs learned about expanding grassroots support for accomplished teaching and National Board Certification. They will also learned new strategies for reaching out to non-educator audiences such as the media, policymakers and parents. We trained an additional 100 NBCTs in May in Phoenix. We will be following up with these teachers to keep them engaged in the work of promoting accomplished teaching and the National Board.

A couple of these “Teaching America” teachers have recently been in the news. Jaymie Reeber Kosa wrote a very good response to a letter criticizing National Board Certification in *Education Week*. Her response was published in last week’s issue.

An Article in the September 2002 edition of *Smart Money Magazine* features three National Board Certified Teachers. Virginia Ward (Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts), Linda Hoekstra (Early Childhood/Generalist) and Laurie Humphrey (Middle Childhood /Generalist and a "Teaching America" teacher). All three teachers offer great quotes advising parents on becoming more involved in their children's education as well as tips for working with teachers and administrators to ensure their children's opportunities for success in the classroom. The article includes an introduction about Ward stating, "She recently achieved National Board Certification, a distinction earned by less than 1 percent of teachers nationwide. She offers moms and dads her best lessons on successfully dealing with teachers."

NBCT National Conference

We have nearly 200 teachers registered for the November 8-10, 2002 NBCT National Conference being held in San Diego. This is an increase from registration at this time of year for past conferences. The conference, *Expanding Professional Influence in Communities*, is shaping up to the nation's premier forum for advancing accomplished teaching. Tell teachers, administrators, and other educators to watch the NBPTS web site for lists of confirmed speakers. Encourage them to attend this event.

Government Relations News

I am happy to report that the Senate appropriations committee completed its work on the education appropriations bill for federal fiscal year 2003. Our \$10 million is specifically appropriated for us, by name. The House committee will not consider its bill before September. We expect some controversy, not necessarily on us, but on larger big spending issues, before all is said and done. So, while we have a considerable way to go yet, we are off to an excellent start!

Another interesting development is that Senator Jay Rockefeller has introduced a bill to provide a tax credit for teachers who achieve NBC. Here is the cite:

S. 2844 (Rockefeller, D-WV), the Incentives to Educate American Children Act of 2002 ("I TEACH") to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; press release at <http://rockefeller.senate.gov/2002/pr080102.html>.

Board and Committee Meetings

The 2002 Nominating Committee met on August 14 in the Arlington office to prepare a slate for the 2002 Election of Directors, Officers and Committees. You will receive your election book in late September. The By-Laws Amendment eliminating absentee ballots was passed by over ¾ of the board, as required by the By-Laws. So, you will need to attend our Annual Meeting in Chicago to cast your ballot.

The National Board Certification Sub-Committee will meet in Arlington September 6-7 to do preliminary work in preparation for the very full agenda for the NBCWG at the October meeting.

The Disqualification Review Panel will meet with our staff and Steven Routh, NBPTS counsel, September 14 in Arlington to review pending cases and to prepare a report for the board for the October meeting.

Plans are shaping up for the Board of Directors' October 10-12 Annual Meeting and our 15th Anniversary celebration in Chicago. You will receive a preliminary agenda and notice of the meeting in the next couple of weeks.

I hope you are enjoying your summer.