



Why Pursue National Board Certification?

by Evelyn Sanchez, NCBT

In addition to being National Board Certified, Evelyn Sanchez is President of New Mexico World Class Teacher Network and Board Member to the NBPTS.

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I posed this question to myself ten years ago in my 16th year of teaching. During a fifth grade level meeting, my principal generated excitement about an informational meeting to recruit teachers for National Boards. She lacked specific information about National Boards, but said it sounded important to the profession and wanted one of her teachers to attend this meeting and bring back the information. She was an exceptional administrator, one who constantly encouraged her staff to pursue their own professional development.

At the meeting, I listened while Dr. Rose Mitchell from the University of New Mexico told us about the New Mexico World Class Teacher Project. The state had appropriated money for this project to recruit and pay the application fee for 75-selected Master teachers in 1994 to be the first to pursue National Board cer-

tification in New Mexico. The project would provide would provide university professors as mentors, \$100 spending allowance, five professional development release days, weekly and monthly study groups along with video support. She listed all of the requirements for National Boards and explained there was no guarantee we would become certified nor that it would impact the profession. I was intrigued. Little did I realize how this program would change me so dramatically.

When I went back to my school, I happened to be the only 5th grade teacher who met the application requirements. My principal really wanted one of her teachers to participate. What pressure! I remember going home and discussing all of the requirements with my husband. He, too, felt this was important work and encouraged me to proceed. (cont. pg. 2).

Take One!

by Dr. Elwyn Carl Hulett, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence ENMU

The National Board of Professional Teachers Standards (NBPTS) has announced a new option for those teachers who would like to pursue National Board Certification. The program is called *Take One!*

Take One! has been built from NBPTS's nationally respected as-

essment program – a program that has been rigorously studied by independent researchers and found to improve teacher quality and enhance student achievement. *Take One!* allows a teacher to submit one video portfolio entry (one of ten components required) from their certification

area. There are 24 certificate areas of the National Board Certification program.

Following the NBPTS timeline, the portfolio is submitted and assessed in the same way as the entire National Board Certification process.

(cont. pg. 3)

THE NEW MEXICO NEWS

THE POWER OF ONE

Why Pursue NBC? (cont.)

I had received my Masters degree in 1982 and figured it had been 12 years since I had been involved in meaningful professional development for myself as a teacher. For 12 years I had attended various district staff development in-services as professional development. District staff development is certainly a component of professional development, but I was focused on the district's needs and not my own needs, so I decided to apply.

Here it is ten years later, and I find myself once again conversing with my husband as to why I pursued National Boards. Once again, his insight answered my question. He reminded me that before National Boards my professional development was focused on district needs. He remembered how National Boards refocused my professional development on my needs as a teacher. He explained, "National Boards boosted your morale. You liked your job again. You felt good about your profession. It challenged your teaching and charged you up. Your whole attitude was strengthened by the process and it continues to impact your work with students." I now look at my teaching differently and more thoroughly every single day. I search all around me, pulling from each and everyone I run into for ways to ensure each child experiences success and reaches his or her potential. While writing this, I realized I was urged to pursue National Boards by my administrator and husband because of their belief in me as a teacher who was always searching for ways to become a

better teacher. Yet deep down I pursued National Boards because I wanted to know if my practice truly made me a good teacher for my students.

So why should you pursue National Boards? For each of you who decide to go through the process of National Board Certification, it is a personal professional decision. A decision that can provide a life changing experience, and will forever impact your teaching and leaning with students. I pursued National Boards for my students and I think you should pursue National Board Certification for all of the student lives you touch each year.

Well, National Board Certification is considered the highest credential in the teaching profession. It is a voluntary and rigorous process that measures what a teacher knows and is able to do. It has validated me as a professional. It was also an incredible professional development experience, and it made a difference in my classroom. Research shows that students of National Board Certified Teachers perform better on tests and that being taught by an NBCT is equal to an extra month of school. The process has given me the confidence to advocate as a professional for students and colleagues. I thank all the teachers who developed the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for providing a program to the teachers of our country that challenges us, prods us, stretches us, and then assures us that we make the greatest difference of all.

IMPORTANT DATES

2007

2/9-10

Southwest Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Conference, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque. Contact: SWIDA at 505.225.8234 or swida@southwestida.com.

2/24

Camino Real Council of the International Reading Association English Expo XVIII, La Cueva High School, 7801 Wilshire NE Albuquerque, NM. Registration deadline is 3 Feb 2007. For more information please Dianna Valdez at 505.898.3587 or email at valdez@aps.edu.

3/3

2007 Annual Spring NMAEYC Conference. Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Bobbie Bailey toll free at 1.877.744.kids or 505.823.1351 or 505.823.0975 or E-mail at: DRBailey2@aol.com for more information.

4/11-14

National Council of Social Studies Regional Conference, Embassy Suites, Albuquerque. Contact: Pat Graff, E-mail: PGraff@aol.com or Peggy Jackson, E-mail: psjj2849@aol.com.

4-20-21

2007 State IRA Conference, Onate High School, Las Cruces, NM. For more information please contact Dianna Valdez at president@nmira.org or visit: <http://www.nmira.org>.

5/13-19

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Albuquerque Convention Center. For more information visit www.intelisef2007.org or E-mail Jeanette Miller at jeanette@gotoif.org.

6/7-9

Center for Teaching Excellence Fifteenth Annual Action Research Conference, Kachina Lodge de Taos, Taos, NM. Contact: CTE at 505.562.2266 or E-mail: cte@enmu.edu.

COMING SOON!!

High Standards, High Quality Teaching: How National Board Certified Teachers Improve Schools & Help Students

Learn

NMASCD's newest publication highlighting best instructional practices by NBPT from across the United States

THE NEW MEXICO NEWS

THE POWER OF ONE

Take One! (cont.)

For a cost of \$395, a teacher takes the one entry and submits it for evaluation. The single entry score result may be banked or ignored. If a teacher decides to go through the complete certification process, the banked score can be used and that entry would not have to be repeated for the completion of the certification process.

Take One! is available to all teachers and school counselors regardless of their experience level. It is classroom-based professional development and requires that educators have access to a classroom of PK – 12 students in order to complete the portfolio entry.

This *Take One!* process will: 1) enrich participants' understanding and knowledge of high and rigorous standards for accomplished teaching practice and what it means to teach to standards; 2) provide evidence of a teachers' professional teaching practice; and 3) help a teacher decide whether they would like to pursue National Board Certification through this smaller time and financial commitment.

For more information visit the NBPTS's website at www.nbpts.org/TakeOne! If you are interested in receiving graduate credit for *Take One!* and/or National Board Certification, call the Center for Teaching Excellence @ (505) 562-2266 or email cte@enmu.edu.

NMASCD MISSION STATEMENT

The New Mexico Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NMASCD), a diverse and innovative organization, cultivates educational leadership capacity – advancing knowledge through current research, best practices and shared professional development – which ultimately enhances the learning of all New Mexico students

OBJECTIVES

100% of NM educational leaders will be active members of NMASCD. Each NMASCD member will demonstrate an increased capacity for educational leadership. Each member will identify NMASCD as the premier source for:

- Cutting-edge research
- Current best practices
- Quality professional development, and
- Statewide networking and ongoing communication.

Each NMASCD member will positively impact student achievement.

STRATEGIES

1. We will develop and implement a creative marketing plan to build membership and effectively communicate organizational activities and issues.
2. We will develop and implement a long-range plan for professional development opportunities to ensure our members stay current with cutting edge research and best practices.
3. We will cultivate educational leadership by identifying and sharing processes that demonstrate increased student achievement.

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NMASCD Newsletter is searching for articles on best practices in educating New Mexico's students. Please send articles of 400-600 words to :

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If your article is selected for publication you will receive a complementary one year membership in NMASCD.

Return this portion and check payable to NMACSD to:

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