



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas teachers pursue national certificate

Over 40 Kansas teachers began their journey towards a national certificate recently. If previous success rates hold, the teachers using the services of the Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification at Emporia State University will have a better chance of achieving the certificate than teachers across the country.

“As in previous years, National Board Certified Teachers assisted in the delivery of the orientation and thus commenced the mentoring relationship that has proven successful,” said Roger Caswell, director of the Great Plains Center. “The initial certification rate for teachers going through our program is consistently 30 points higher than the national average.”

Mentoring teacher-candidates begins with a two-day orientation academy for teachers interested in going through the process. Due to high numbers of interested teachers, the academy was offered twice this year: once in Wichita in late July and again at Emporia State University in early August.

This is the tenth year the academy has been held; the last eight years it has been supported by the State Farm Insurance Companies. Local state farm agent Pete Euler has been instrumental in obtaining funding for the academy.

“From a distance we get to see corporations sponsor Nascar or other sports events, and it’s different to see the impact sponsorship of this kind of program can make in a town of 24,000 people,” Euler said. “It shows State Farm as a corporate entity hasn’t forgotten the significance of helping a Kansas teacher gain national board certification.”

The process a teacher goes through to gain the certification is one of the main ways the teaching profession recognizes excellence among its ranks. The process takes a better part of the academic year and requires teachers to assess their teaching from all aspects: teaching over time, documenting student work samples, capturing classroom interactions, matching class lessons to state and national standards, and collaborating with parents and community. The goal is to show student impact that consistently occurs in the classroom. The teacher must document what they do in written reports, videos, and other media and submit it to teaching peers who then determine if the teacher-candidate’s portfolio matches the standards of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

This year’s academy marks a change in leadership of ESU’s national board program as Linda Sobieski, the director of the program since its beginning in 1993, retires and Roger Caswell becomes the program’s director. Caswell is a national board certified teacher who taught middle school language arts for 21 years, the last two at Wamego, USD 320 following 12 years at Riley County, USD 378.

The Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification is in ESU’s Jones Institute for Educational Excellence (JIEE).

Contact JIEE for more information about the NBPTS program at ESU by visiting www.emporia.edu/jones/ or call 620-341-5372, 877-378-5433 toll free.



2006 National Board Orientation Academy Attendees

(alpha by USD)

Anderson County, USD 365

Hedges, Stacey – Anderson County High
Scheve, Jeanna – Anderson County Jr./Sr. High
Wilson, Phyllis – Anderson County High

Blue Valley, USD 229

Fansher, Janet – Overland Park
Hotujac, Debra – Cedar Hills Elementary
Lindberg, Terry – Blue Valley West High

Buhler, USD 313

Poulseen, Teresa – Praire Hills Middle

DeSoto, USD 232

Leo, Kathryn – Riverview Elementary
Powers, Jeri – Riverview Elementary

Geary County, USD 475

Hagstrum, Heather – Morris Hill Elementary

Lawrence Public Schools, USD

Durgan, Terri – Quail Run Elementary

Manhattan, USD 383

Blaske, Donna – Marlatt Elementary
Liotta, Kimberley – Marlatt Elementary
Perbeck, Dawn – Marlatt Elementary

Olathe, USD 233

Hedges, Angie – Olathe Northwest High
Ross, Gayle - Scarborough
Young, David – Olathe Northwest High

Perry-Lecompton, USD 343

Zimmerman, Pat – Perry-Lecompton Middle

Seaman, USD 345

*Colhouer, Stacy – Elmont Elementary
*Mathes, Gena – Elmont Elementary
*Shaw, Sharon – Elmont Elementary
*Steiner, Audra – Elmont Elementary

Wamego, USD 320

Long, Deb – Central Elementary and West Elementary

Wichita Public Schools, USD 259

Batchelder, Sara – Linwood Elementary
Belcher, Tanya – Linwood Elementary
Bush, Allison – Linwood Elementary
Coburn, Gaye – Wichita North
Griffith, Claudia – Wichita West
Hankins, Tennele – Curtis Middle
Hayden, Marla – Wichita Northwest
Head, Traci – Charles Curtis Middle
Kee-Adams, Ramona – Curtis Middle
Kitchen, Paul – Wichita Northwest
Lujano, Donna – Pleasant Valley Middle
Mayfield, Jill – Linwood Elementary
McVay, Alison – Linwood Elementary
Molde, Sherri – Curtis Middle
Rogers-Cheer, Chris – Curtis Middle
Struble, Karen – Brooks Middle Magnet
Vicin, Mendie – Linwood Elementary
Wilson, Jennifer – Wichita North
Winter, Rebekah – Wichita South



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