



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Terri Weast, weastter@emporia.edu
Roger Caswell, rcaswell@emporia.edu
1-877-378-5433, 620-341-5372

Kansas schools gain highly qualified teachers

Over 85 percent of educators mentored through a program at Emporia State University in 2006-07 achieved the highest honor of the teaching profession. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released results today for teachers who worked for the national certification during the 2006-07 school year, with 34 Kansas educators achieving the certification.

"Teachers who pursue National Board Certification are committed to daily reflection about their effectiveness as teachers," said Tes Mehring, Dean of The Teachers College at ESU. "They strive to document student learning that occurs as a result of teaching. They are willing to provide evidence that they meet the highest standards in the profession. Emporia State University and The Teachers College congratulate the teachers who have met this benchmark of excellence!"

The process a teacher goes through to gain the certification is one of the main ways the teaching profession recognizes excellence among its ranks. Roger Caswell, director of Emporia State University's Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification in the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence (JIEE), guides teachers through the year-long process.

"Teachers who ultimately receive a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate show they have met high and rigorous professional standards through peer review," said Caswell.

With the new national board certified teachers, Kansas now has a total of 269 national board certified teachers in the state's schools. In Kansas, 86% percent of the teachers who received assistance from the ESU program in 2005-06 attained the certification in their first year of attempting it. This 86% initial certification rate is 30-40 points above what is generally the initial certification rate nationally.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes between one and three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do. The program for providing professional support for the certification has been available at ESU since 1993.

Nationwide, 8,491 teachers attained their national board certification in 2007, bringing the total number of national board certified teachers to nearly 64,000.

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Kansas 2007 New National Board Certified Teachers (school district – teacher's name):

Blue Valley (USD 229) –
Janet Fansher, Jennifer Gessley, Debra Hotujac,
Teresa Lindberg, Donna Szymkowski, Alyson Young

Clay Center – Paula Lane

Emporia – Heather Caswell

Garnett – Garie Brownrigg

Hays – Suzanne Leikam

Jefferson West – Mary Naumann

Lawrence – Terri Durgan

Manhattan-Ogden –
Kimberley Liotta, Dawn Quintanar, Tara Thomas

Olathe –
Angela Hedges, Gayle Ross, Michelle Thrower

Parsons – Tiffany Hicks, Michell Piva

Perry – Patricia Zimmerman

Shawnee Heights – Kelly Deters

Topeka – Kari Ritter

Wamego – John Ritchie

Wichita –
Tanya Belcher, Karen Burrell, Gaye Coburn, Kelly
Frederick, Jeffery Freund, Tennele Hankins, Amber
Jones, Barbara Williams, Rebekah Winter, Shanna
Zimmerman

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. Details regarding the national board certification process can be found at the NBPTS web site, www.nbpts.org.

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