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Kansas schools gain highly qualified teachers

Over 70 percent of educators mentored through a program at Emporia State University in 2007-08 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 2007-08 school year, with 27 Kansas educators achieving the certification.

"Teachers who pursue National Board Certification are working to attain the highest level of professional recognition," said Ken Weaver, Interim Dean of The Teachers College at ESU. "They reflect daily on their teaching effectiveness as defined by how well their students learn. They submit evidence from student learning and other professional activities to demonstrate 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 297 national board certified teachers in the state’s schools. In Kansas, 72% percent of the teachers who received assistance from the ESU program in 2007-08 attained the certification in their first year of attempting it. This 72% initial certification rate is 30-40 points above 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, 9,600 teachers attained their national board certification in 2008, bringing the total number of national board certified teachers to nearly 74,000.

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Kansas 2008 New National Board Certified Teachers (school district – teacher’s name; * denotes they received assistance through the GPCNTC at ESU):

Anthony-Harper-Chaparral, USD 361 –
Pamela Fallis*

Blue Valley, USD 229 –
Jennifer Johnson*
Abigail Neiburger*
Tyson Ostroski*

Central, USD 462 –
Judith Powell

Clay County, USD 379 –
Kristin Wright*

Emporia, USD 253 –
Sherry Nelson*
Charles Wells*

Hays, USD 489 –
Monica Dreilling*

Maize, USD 266 –
Jay Super*

Manhattan-Ogden, USD 383 –
Freelon Goodson
Richard Nelson
Debra Schapaugh*

North Jackson County, USD 335 –
Patricia McKinney*

Olathe, USD 233 –
Lori Greeson*
Joell Ramsdell
Leigh Ann Rogers*
Gretchen Schmanke*
Christine Walker*

Seaman, USD 345 –
Stacy Colhouer*
Gena Mathes*

Shawnee Mission, USD 512 –
Andrea Smith

Wichita, USD 259 –
Claudia Griffith*
Donna Lujano*
Kathleen O’Keefe
Regina Schutt*
Jennifer Sissell*

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 website, www.nbpts.org.

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