Teachers Measure Up - Again

Last year, two Easton USD 449 teachers were among 14 Kansas educators deciding if they wanted to go through a rigorous journey – again.

Within the last ten years, Jeanine Murphy and Linda Stecher went through the challenging year-long process of becoming National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). A year ago they decided they wanted to go through the process to renew their certificates as the life of their original 10-year certificates were soon to expire.

This week they found out their work had measured up again when both received notice their national board certifications were renewed.

Murphy teaches at Salt Creek Elementary in Leavenworth and is nationally board certified in generalist / early childhood.

Stecher teaches at Pleasant Ridge Middle School in Easton and is nationally board certified in art / early adolescence through young adulthood.

“This process of board certification is very much like how a doctor becomes certified in a special area,” said Dr. Roger Caswell, director of ESU’s program which assists teachers working toward national certification. “This is voluntary – no state, school district, or program is demanding them to go through this process. That’s why – a decade after earning their certification the first time – it’s a huge commitment to say, ‘Yes, I want to do it again.’”

While the national board process is often misunderstood to mean that a teacher passed a test or was nominated for the award, Caswell explained the certification is a different kind of honor. Teachers must submit extensive documentation of their instruction, including videos of their students at work in the classroom.

The accomplishment of national board certification benefits the teachers, the schools they work in, and studies have shown NBCTs improves student learning. And the program hosted at ESU, Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification, benefits as it maintains a 100% renewal rate with candidates achieving recertification on their first attempt. More information about ESU’s program can be found at www.emporia.edu/jones/nbpts/.

Kansas currently has a total of 323 national board certified teachers. Of those, 27 will have to be deciding soon if they want to go through the process again.

###TEACH###

More information about NBCT renewal can be found at: http://www.nbpts.org/for_nbcts/certification_renewal

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, the total number of national board certified teachers is more than 82,000.