FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Photos: Of all teachers mentioned are attached (last name is within file name)

Teachers Measure Up – Again

One hundred percent of the educators mentored through a program at Emporia State University in 2009-10 achieved the highest honor of the teaching profession, each for a second time.

The teachers were notified in late October the work they had done had – once again – measured up. The teachers are:

Blue Valley, USD 229 –
- Shawn Kovacik – Generalist / Middle Childhood – Lakewood Middle School
- Terrie Morris – Generalist / Middle Childhood – Mission Trail Elementary
- Christie Purdon – Science/Early Adolescence – District Office
- Masha Ratzel – Science/Early Adolescence - Leawood Middle School
- Marilyn Vaughan – Generalist / Early Childhood – District Office

Columbus, USD 493 –
- Delaine Robinson – English Language Arts / Adolescence and Young Adulthood – Columbus Unified High School

Easton, USD 449
- Jeanine Murphy – Generalist / Early Childhood – Salt Creek Elementary
- Linda Stecher – Art / Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood – Pleasant Ridge Middle School

Garnett, USD 365
- Alvin Peters – Social Studies-History / Adolescence and Young Adulthood – Anderson County Junior-Senior High School

Haysville, USD 261
- Marilyn Shaw – Mathematics / Early Adolescence Haysville Middle School

Salina, USD 305
- Carlene Stueve – English Language Arts / Adolescence and Young Adulthood – Salina High School South

Seaman, USD 345
- Patrick Kelly – Exceptional Needs Specialist / Early Childhood through Young Adulthood – Seaman High School

Wichita, USD 259
- Andrew Davis – English Language Arts / Adolescence and Young Adulthood – Northwest High School
- Kimberly Thomas – Generalist / Middle Childhood – Division of Support System – Riverside Academy

Within the last ten years, the 14 teachers from across the state went through the challenging year-long process of becoming National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). A year ago, each of them decided to go through the process to renew their certificates, as the life of their original 10-year certificate was about to expire.
“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.

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.