The Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification offers a program of professional development at no cost for teachers in Kansas going through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards assessment process. The Center’s program receives funding from the Kansas legislature and has the support and approval of both the president of NBPTS and the Kansas Board of Regents. In fact, it is the only institute in Kansas that has approval from both. The Center is located in the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence at Emporia State University.

The Center’s program of support consistently achieves a certification rate well above the national average. For the last five years, the success rates have averaged 80% compared to the nation’s average of 40% in the same time period.

National Board Certification, as developed by NBPTS, is a rigorous professional development process with the potential to advance systemic change. However, what began in 1987 as a system to identify and reward accomplished teaching practice has developed into a professional development experience described by some as nothing short of transformational. Many teachers, regardless of the certification outcome, consider this performance-based assessment the most powerful professional development experience of their careers.

NBPTS does not limit candidates to absorbing “sit-and-get” information. Instead, teachers involved in this assessment process are in the classroom and teaching students. Teachers experience authentic professional development affecting the academic needs of the students. For teachers, the certification process is a guide for developing a reflective practice to improve their level of knowledge, strengthen their teaching skills, inspire supportive and nurturing dispositions, and refine professional judgment.

For information on candidate support, contact:

Dr. Roger Caswell, NBCT
Director of the Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification
Jones Institute for Educational Excellence
Emporia State University
Campus Box 4036
1200 Commercial
Emporia, KS 66801

1-877-378-5433 (office, toll-free)
1-785-341-9599 (cell)
rcaswell@emporia.edu
### The Five Levels of Statewide Candidate Support Offered by Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification

#### Level I: Pre-candidate Support
- Introduction to the available 25 certificates, the process, and the candidacy experience delivered on-site
- Teachers can begin this level prior to the requirement of completing three successful years of teaching in the selected NBPTS certificate

#### Level II: Candidate Support
- A two-day orientation in September, held at ESU and underwritten by State Farm®, for the portfolio phase of the process
- Individualized or small cohort support delivered on-site and/or by distance delivery
- A workshop at ESU, in April, for the written content-knowledge phase of the process
- **Take One!** professional development for individuals or building-wide, inclusive of administrators

#### Level III: Advanced Candidate Support
- An advanced orientation at ESU, in January, for candidates not initially certified
- Strategic planning for the possible two years of continuing the process

#### Level IV: Renewal Candidate Support
- A renewal orientation at ESU, in September, for NBCTs wanting to renew their initial 10-year certificate
- As of October 2009, the success rate from the Great Plains Center is 100%

#### Level V: Expanding NBCT Leadership in Kansas
- Collaborative development of resources to support accomplished teaching

### What Is Involved in the NBPTS Assessment Process?

**National Board Certification is a two-part process.**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Portfolio</strong></td>
<td>The portfolio has four entries. Three of the entries are instructional-based and directly related to the candidate's classroom practice; the fourth entry tracks communication and outreach to parents and community, as well as the professional development of the teacher as a learner and as a collaborative leader. All four of the portfolio entries require submission of a written commentary along with supporting evidence.</td>
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<td><strong>Assessment Center Exercises</strong></td>
<td>The written assessment center portion of the process consists of six 30-minute exercises. The exercises focus more heavily on content-knowledge, but may also include simulations of situations to which teachers typically must respond, and/or explorations of particular questions on pedagogical content topics and issues.</td>
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