



Highlights of Upcoming Events!

The Power of Reflection:

- Jan 10, 17, 24, and 31 and Feb 7, 14, 21, and 28**
NBC Pre-candidacy Class
- Feb 8-9, Mar 14-15, April 25-26, and May 9-10**
Cognitive Coaching (Phoenix)
- February 21**
National Board Pre-candidacy Curriculum Training
- February 22-23**
NBPTS Facilitator Training

SUPPORTING NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ARIZONA

Faith Caffey had taught English and Journalism for 14 years at Holbrook High School in Holbrook, AZ when she decided to pursue National Board Certification® (NBC).

“I had reached a level of complacency,” she says, “a dangerous place to be. We start out seeing the classroom as a way to change the world, but then you can become a bit jaded, and lose some of the fire you had when you started. For me, certification ignited the fire again. I have honestly developed a new love for teaching, which I attribute to going through the process.”

cognizant of what their intention is with every aspect of their teaching, NBC stimulates a richer learning environment for children.

For Faith Caffey, the process was even more meaningful than whether she achieved or not. She observes: “Certification is a wonderful pat on the back, but the process was so phenomenally powerful. It’s not about the science of teaching, but the art of teaching. We become better artists, better at creating what our children need to succeed.”

While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, NBCTs have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: National Board Candidate Support Training

For Daniela Robles, a Reading Interventionist at Mitchell Elementary School in the Isaac School District, certification has brought greater confidence as both a teacher and a leader.

SUPERIOR SUPPORT IN ARIZONA

If NBC sounds tough, that’s because it is. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment. Teachers build a portfolio that includes student work samples, assignments, videotapes and a thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Teachers are also assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach. This typically takes one to three years to complete.

“The professional development that you lead yourself through is crucial,” she says. “It has made me more secure in what I do, in my own practices and interactions with teachers. The process has made me find my voice, to feel the confidence and leave the doubt behind.”

The professional development that you lead yourself through is crucial.

That’s why proper support is essential. The Arizona K-12 Center, in collaboration with Arizona State University and the Arizona Education Association, offers several levels of support for teachers making this journey. Pre-candidacy classes provide a clear picture of what to expect moving forward. These are followed by monthly “small group” meetings that offer a collaborative environment in which teachers dive more deeply into reflection. Candidates can ask questions and benefit from the experience of their NBCT facilitators.

National Board Certification is a rigorous assessment program designed to recognize and reward accomplished teachers. Started in 1987, with funding from the Carnegie Foundation, NBC was established to “professionalize the profession”. Just as other professions such as doctors and architects can pursue the accomplishment and recognition of board certification in their specialty, NBC gives acknowledgement to accomplished teachers. It’s also perhaps the finest single professional development program available.

In addition, working retreats give teachers more opportunities to connect with peers, access helpful resources and advance through the process.

“Most professional development is about learning stuff and trying it out in your classroom,” says Sarah Baird, NBCT, and a facilitator in the Phoenix Metro Area. “But this process is personal. That means you have to really reflect. Questions that push your thinking deeper help you to make your practice more meaningful and effective. All the answers are within - it’s a matter of pulling them out.”

The first Arizona teacher to gain certification is the Center’s own Executive Director, Kathy Wiebke. She achieved National Board Certification in 1996 and renewed her certificate in 2006. She remembers how going through the process truly changed the teaching climate in her school. “It really strengthened my relations with other teachers,” says Wiebke. “Because I needed help, we had real substantive conversations about teaching and learning. Many of those colleagues became certified themselves.”

THE ART OF TEACHING

With the program still in its infancy, Wiebke had no in-state support whatsoever. She recalls how much more difficult this made it for her: “I had so many misconceptions about the process, that I spent as much time worrying about it as I did the work.”

This depth of self-analysis has a direct impact on student learning. NBC does not focus on curriculum, but on the quality of the teaching and learning. By helping teachers become more

Dates	February 22-23, 2008
Location	Desert Willow Conference Center 4340 East Cotton Center Boulevard, Phoenix
Times	8:00am-3:30pm
Cost	\$75, Price includes training materials, continental breakfast, lunch and breaks.
Deadline	2/8/2008

Interested in supporting teachers as they pursue National Board Certification? This two-day training is designed to foster greater efficacy in candidate support. Learn to better help candidates utilize resources, understand the scoring process, examine issues of bias and diversity and focus on what matters most. Enhance your own facilitation skills and create a richer professional development experience for candidates with our proven tools and strategies.

Did You Know?

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AZ K-12 Center has a *Pod Cast* on iTunes to *support teachers* seeking National Board Certification.



Listen and watch for free at the *iTunes Store* by searching AZ K-12 Center

The Power of Reflection:

Continued from front

She had to fly to New Mexico just to take the exam with a room full of teachers from other states that had enjoyed considerable more support than she had. This experience has motivated her to help make it easier for Arizona's teachers today. "I want to make sure no one ever goes through the process that blindly again."

Nancy Shakowski, Western States Regional outreach director, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, sees the progress that has been made in the state.

"None of the other Western States have Pre-candidacy support to this degree, and are as organized on a statewide level to deliver a program of support. This is thanks in large part to Kathy's vision and leadership, and to the work of the Arizona K-12 Center."

PARTNERS ON THE JOURNEY

While candidates can greatly benefit from the trained facilitators who are available to assist them, sharing the experience with other candidates remains a vital aspect of the process. Angela Moore and Daniela Robles discovered this early on. They started collaborating in their Pre-candidacy class and supported each other all the way through to certification.

Angela and I met every Saturday, says Robles. We really found out our strengths and weaknesses together.

"Daniela is very detail oriented," says Moore, "I'm more the big picture person. She caught things I didn't notice. It was like having two heads to work with. If one of us didn't understand something, we could check with the other. If the other didn't know we'd call our coach."

Sometimes the best advice they could give each other was simply to take a break and then return to their work with a fresh outlook. They became so close throughout the process that when it came time to wait for their results they hoped they would both

receive the same one, whether for better or for worse. Happily, they both achieved certification.

Many teachers who don't achieve on their first attempt do so with subsequent tries, by redoing those entries in which they feel they can improve. This was the route Mark Brady took. A specialist working with visually impaired and blind students in the Tucson Unified School District, Brady didn't hesitate when he came up short the first time.



"It was extremely disappointing," he says, "but I knew if I stopped now, I would never finish. I had to put aside the feelings of failure and just move forward."

He chose to redo two entries. One of these was on social skills. With a clearer understanding of what was required the second time around, he did a social skills unit for a class of students termed emotionally disabled. As it turned out, Brady found great satisfaction in the additional work he did, which ultimately earned him certification.

"It ended up being an outstanding opportunity," he reflects. "If I had passed the first time, I would not have had this opportunity."

Whatever route your journey leads you on, the destination of National Board Certification is a clear one. Teachers come away with a greater awareness of purpose and possibility generated through this reflective process, which empowers them to reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond.

Congratulations! Newly Certified Teachers

Maria Acosta	Jared Hedden
Donald Anderson	Deborah Hein
Craig Archer	Donna Hicks
Debbie Arenz	Francisca Ibarra
Theresa Arntz	Allycyn Jacobs
Paula Becraft	Karen Konetzni
George Bellew	Melanie Leger
Cynthia Benally	Lynn Marble
Brian Bindschadler	Gena Martinello
Allison Bosworth	Mark Mayer
Colleen Brackenridge	Amanda McMahon
Mark Brady	Anna Mcwhirter
Lisa Brainard	Vicky Mead
Mary Brontsema	Monica Mikitish
Aisha Brooks	Dorothy Miller
Joslyn Brown	Leslee Mizen-Stroud
Lisa Buccigrosse	Angela Moore
Andrew Builder	Leslie Mull
Maureen Byrne	Brenda Nelson
Faith Caffey	Ginny Novell
Kim Caruthers	Tracy Oglesby
Sheryl Castro	Mercedes Pemberton-Negrete
Bonnie Chamberlain	Jennifer Pesato
Marguerite Chieffo	Jodi Pietrowicz
Kim Christie	Debra Pomeroy
Marna Coldwater	Joy Randel
Robin Crow	Darlene Roach
Becky Cuperus	Janelle Roberts-Perrin
Andrea Davidson	Daniela Robles
Mary Derks	Richard Runyon
Kathy Dorer	Dana Russell
Linda Down	Linda Rydholm
Helen Dunne	Marena Saragosa
Karolyn Estrada	Eleanor Scheman
Patrick Farrlley	Sandra Schiffman
Deborah Felnagle	Amy Smith
Jaime Festa-Daigle	Anca Taus-Hummel
Jacqueline Flowers	Wayne Thornes
Lori Fox	Carolyn Toland
Anne Frances O'Connell	Julie Torres
India Franklin	Wendy Tourek
Mollie Fussell	Angela Voita-Butler
Julie Gale	Jennifer Von Kolen
Shannon Geary	Tanya Wall
Jan Gildersleeve	Eileen Weiss
Douglas Gilmer	April White
Christine Gouker	Curtis Willems
Sylvia Grace	David Wirth
Valerie Gresser	James Worthington
Susan Grim	

Go to azk12.org for more information

Staff Spotlight: Kathy Wiebke elected to NBPTS Board of Directors

Arizona K-12 Center Executive Director Kathy Wiebke was recently elected to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Board of Directors. Former Georgia Governor and current chair of the NBPTS Board of Directors Roy E. Barnes cited Kathy's "passion for education and a commitment to improving teaching and learning in our schools."

Barnes went on to note: "She is an accomplished professional in every

sense and will be a major asset for our organization as we advance our mission and prepare America's diverse student population with the skills needed to compete in the 21st century workplace."

It's an honor to join an organization that sets and maintains the standards for teacher excellence.

"It's an honor to join an organization that sets and maintains the standards for teacher excellence," says Kathy. "I look forward to working with other teachers not only in my state but across the country and sharing with them how the National Board Certification process helped me analyze my students' work, reflect on my practice and become a better teacher."

NBPTS is the organization that sets and maintains the standards for teacher excellence. Elections were held during the National Board's October board meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Kathy was one of six new members chosen for the Board of Directors.

Did You Know?

There are approximately 64,000 NBCTs in the United States, including nearly 450 in Arizona. Research demonstrates these outstanding educators consistently outperform their peers in knowledge of subject matter and ability to create challenging and engaging lessons.