



Highlights of Upcoming Events

February 20, 2010

Professional Leadership and Advocacy

February 22, 24, March 1, and 3, 2010

Technology Integration: Google Tools

April 6, 13, 20, and 27, May 4, 11, and 18, 2010

National Board Certification Pre-Candidacy Class

Did You Know ? ?

• The number of NBCTs has more than **doubled** nationwide in the past five years from over **40,000 in 2004** to nearly **82,000 in 2009**.



- More than half of all NBCTs teach in **Title I** eligible schools.
- This year Arizona ranks **17th in the nation** in the number of teachers achieving board certification and ranks **18th** in the total number of NBCTs over time.

Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

National Board Certification Cohorts Create Momentum for their Communities

One of the challenges of delivering quality professional development in Arizona is the varied cultural and geographic landscape of the state. Every district has its own unique issues and priorities for addressing them. An essential trait of National Board Certification (NBC), the highest recognition of accomplished teaching, is that it is relevant for teachers everywhere. That's because NBC focuses on each individual teacher's own students and practice, rather than an abstract system, or set of protocols. As a result, NBC is proving to be a powerful platform for supporting teacher excellence and school improvement in a range of educational environments throughout Arizona.

The Phoenix Union High School District, located in the heart of the city, is a very large, urban district. By contrast, the Maricopa Unified School District covers a significantly less populated area, south of Phoenix, which is suburban to rural in character. Yet each is currently supporting a vibrant cohort of NBC candidates working determinedly towards their March deadline for submissions.

In a recent interview with the Arizona K-12 Center, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan offered high praise for Arizona's National Board cohorts: "I have so much admiration for those teams of teachers that are taking on this NBC challenge together. If they stick together over the next couple of years you'll see schools get dramatically better. I love the sense of collaboration and the message that it sends to the

children, to the school and the entire community about how serious they are about helping their children reach their full academic and social potential."

"It's wonderful to see National Board making strong in-roads in varied communities in Arizona," says Kathy Wiebke, Executive Director of the Arizona K-12 Center. "We know that teacher excellence is not limited to any one type of district. We have great teachers everywhere and National Board helps empower them to be more visible and effective."

"Love the sense of collaboration and the message that it sends to the children, to the school and the entire community..."

MARICOPA MAKES NBC A LOCAL PRIORITY

In the Maricopa District, it's the first time candidate support is being offered in district. This is a significant development because it not only saves the teachers a long drive into Phoenix for meetings, it also creates a sense of involvement and collaboration for those teachers right within their community. The cohort consists of nine candidates, which represents a considerable increase in interest over previous years.

"To go from having one or two National Board Certified teachers total in the district to having a group of nine candidates means we have momentum," says Jen Robinson, Instructional Coach, National Board Certified Teacher, and the cohort's facilitator.

The larger number of participants also creates a district wide impact, as the participating teachers represent all the school campuses in Maricopa except for one.

"It's very positive, very exciting to see these teachers go through the process," Robinson says.

As they progress, the members of this cohort are already being viewed as leaders on their campus. An early example of this is that three candidates from Saddleback Elementary recently provided a professional development training on "interactive notebooks", which was attended by teachers from throughout the district.

The Maricopa district administration has been supportive as well. Principals are aware of the cohort and are embracing the professional development that is occurring. One principal paid the way for the three candidates from their school to attend the NBC retreat provided by the Arizona K-12 Center. The District is particularly interested in NBC as a means for retaining highly qualified teachers.

Robinson explains: "NBC provides teachers with an outlet for their excellence, a way to have an impact on a larger scale, both in the classroom and beyond."

PHOENIX UNION FINDS THE WAY FORWARD

In the Phoenix Union High School District, the structures for NBC were already in place. The District had a foundation in place and the superintendent, Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner, was supportive of the idea. What was missing was a facilitator ready and willing to accept the challenge of attracting teachers to become candidates and then work with them throughout the year.

Alaina Adams, NBCT, who teaches 11th grade English at Maryvale High School, has taken up the cause with gusto. A pre-candidacy class she led last spring drew 28 participants. Out of these, ten signed up and have been pursuing their National Board candidacy.

The teachers in her cohort not only bond with one another, as they collaborate on preparing their entries, but they grow closer to their students as well.

Continued on back



National Board Certification Cohorts Create Momentum for their Communities

Continued from front



“The kids are in on the process,” Adams says. “You have to tell students about it, that they are going to be videotaped and that you are going to be tested. Sometimes teachers show the kids the video and they say ‘we can do better, let’s do it again.’”

Greater interest in NBC is starting to spread to other teachers in the Phoenix Union District. More teachers are seeing that it’s truly student-focused professional development, rather than a mandated task.

“It’s almost like therapy for teachers who are weighed down with all the external requirements,” Adams says. “It helps you focus on what’s really important, and what’s important is the students.”

The teachers in Maricopa are generating strong word of mouth in their district as well.

“They are really promoting NBC,” says Robinson. “They see the impact it is having in their classroom and they recognize these conversations need to happen.”

Collectively, these teachers are helping to build a foundation of excellence for the future, both within their two very different districts, and beyond.

“It helps you focus on what’s really important, and what’s important is the students.”

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: The New Literacies of Online Reading Comprehension

Sponsored in Partnership with Pearson Education, Inc

Dates January 28, 2010

Location Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 East Cotton Center Boulevard

City Phoenix

Times 8:00-4:00pm (Registration 8:00-8:30am)

Cost \$25

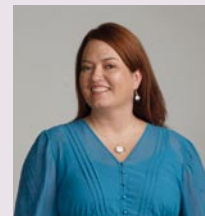
Deadline 1/14/2010

Notes Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and materials.

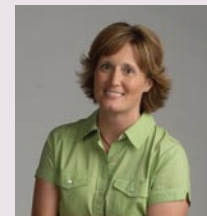
The Internet and other forms of information and communication technologies are redefining the nature of reading, writing, and communication. To become fully literate in today’s world, students must gain proficiency in the new literacies of 21st century technologies.

Hear from a nationally prominent specialist in reading and Internet technologies, Dr. Donald J. Leu. His work focuses on the new skills and strategies required to read, write, and learn with Internet technologies and the best instructional practices that prepare students for these new literacies.

LEADERS IN ACTION



Alaina Adams NBCT
11th Grade English
Phoenix Union High School District



Jen Robinson
Instructional Coach
Maricopa Unified School District

Alaina Adams, NBC facilitator in the Phoenix Union High School District, achieved certification in 2008. She got so much out of the process, she says, “it was like a spiritual journey for me. I didn’t want it to end.” Now, in a sense, she’s found a way to keep that journey going, as a guide to other teachers pursuing their own certification.

Jen Robinson, who achieved certification in 2004, is also motivated to facilitate her cohort in the Maricopa Unified School District by her own NBC experiences. “It was such a powerful process for me, I just want to make sure others have the opportunity.”

By applying their own personal passion, Adams and Robinson have seen significant changes in their teachers, which only makes them more committed to the NBC cause.

“I get the same high working with teachers as with my 11th graders when one of them gets it,” Adams observes. “I love working with teachers in the state. I’m not a religious person but, this is my ministry.”

Robinson wants her teachers to get the most they possibly can out of the process regardless of the outcome. “I want them to be successful, whether they achieve NBC or not, to feel empowered because it’s an amazing year-long journey they’re on.”

Their first hand experience makes Adams and Robinson ideal guides.

Congratulations! 2009 Newly Certified Teachers

Jena Akard	Janelle Chisholm	Jennifer Goode	Todd Ludwig	Debra Scott
Jennifer Albertson	Juei Ping Chiu	Sarah Green	Jennifer Ludwig	Bradley Seagraves
Jane Anderson	Susan Clark	Stacy Griego	Cimarron Ludwig	Melissa Strand
Tamara Andrews	Julie Cleveland	Karen Grose	Karen Maas	Sondra Tani
Laura Armatage	Rosamaria Cordova	Brenda Hardy	Randi Malin	Alyssa Tattrie
Mel Artz	Lynne Cote	Laurie Harman	Dixie Maxwell	Chersti Thomack
Michelle Augustyn	Katherine Cross	Tina Haverstick	Rebecca McComish	Kimberley Thomas
Luz Marizza Bailey	Allyson Cummins	Karen Henager	Janet Millar-Haskell	David Thompson
John Bannon	Jeanne Quan Damman	Sarah Hurley	Carrie Miller	Brian Tindell
Judith Bartley	Nancy Danbury	Marcelle Hyde	Cynthia Mink	Carol Tracy
Marsha Becker	Paul Dickey	Stefani Jenkins	Donna Morrissey	Roberta Underhill
Heidi Befort	Cheryl Dow	Jennifer Jensen	Ellen Munley	Kimberly Vallejo
Jill Bentzel	Michael Drobitsky	Melissa Johnson	Christine Neal	Margarita Vasquez
Karen Bergstrom	Jeanie Duncan	Laura Kamka	Elizabeth Needham	Karen Vernon
Melissa Beverly	Linda Duncan	Monika Krienitz	Jennifer Nichols	Tracy Vincent
Ginny Biddle	Heather Dziczek	Kristin Kuehn	Dawn Olson	Robert Walling
Mary Beth Borkowski	Shirley Ehler	Melinda Kugler	Hannah Parnell	Monica Watson
Christine Brandell	Andrea Emerick	Sharla Labelle	Lois Pepple	Sharyn Weinheimer
Christine Bretzke	John Enright	Crystal Landa	Briselda Porras	Sara Williams
Alicia Brislin	Janiece Esmay	Juliene Larson	Barbara Ratliff	Louisa Williams
Carrie Broughton-Bejarano	Christine Ewbank	Daniel Lawrence	Molly Reed	Linda Wilson
Karen Brown	Nancy Feiring	Torie Leinbach	Louise Rochford	David Wirth
Maylene Byers	Deanna Fife	Michelle Letterly	Marilyn Roden	Megan Yeats
Cheryl Carlson	Crystal Francom	Linda Levy	Julie Rombach	
Amanda Chapman	Kim Funk	Guillermina Lorona	Crystal Schilling	

Congratulations! 2009 NBCT Renewals

Mary Bosen Barbara Post Tim Rockey Rebecca Willey Grace Wood