

“Showing the Way”

National Board Certification for BIE Educators

Dear National Board Certified Teacher,

We need your help to spread the word about BIE’s partnership with the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to provide a valuable professional development experience for BIE teachers. BIE views National Board Certification (NBC) as an important part of our reform efforts to improve student achievement. We are a strong supporter of NBC and National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT)! As an NBCT, you can “show others the way” on this important journey for excellence in teaching.

*Do you remember the first time someone suggested that you were ready to pursue NBC? It's a moment many NBCTs say they will never forget. With the registration deadline fast approaching (extended to **Monday, February 29, 2016**), this is the time for you to give someone the same memory that you now cherish.*

Who do you know that is ready to start the journey?

As we continue to pursue the shared goal of NBC becoming a professional expectation for excellent teachers, the weeks ahead are critical. We are asking for your help to identify and encourage the next cohort of potential NBCTs.

To contribute to this effort, we are suggesting several action steps:

1. Think about a teacher you know who YOU believe would be a great National Board candidate. Identify one example from that teacher’s practice that you think exemplifies accomplished teaching. For example, “I’ve noticed how you use journals to promote academic vocabulary and problem solving with your students...”
2. Think about these talking points:
 - a. National Board Certification is recognized as the gold standard in teaching.
 - b. NBCTs attest to the positive effects the NBC process has on their classroom practice.
 - c. A growing body of research links NBC with improved student achievement.
 - d. Increased student achievement in the classroom, ultimately leads to a stronger future for Native children and Indian Country.
 - e. The certification process is a rigorous, challenging process that enables teachers to analyze and hone their professional practice. The NBC is a powerful learning experience whether or not educators achieve NBC.
 - f. BIE offers financial incentives to support and recognize BIE educators’ hard work and commitment to excellence.
 - g. Highlight what YOU have gained from your NBC experience. Your story is powerful, authentic and compelling. In what ways did the NBC process positively impact your practice?

3. If the teacher expresses interest as a result of your conversation, invite the teacher to learn more about the NBC process by watching the videos below and reading the attached NBC overview document.
 - <http://goo.gl/o9vdhP>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYTpO0BSd8>
4. Utilize social media, regular communication, or personal contact to spread the word that February 29, 2016 is the deadline to register and chose a component. Use the hashtag: #NBCTready

*As always, the National Board's purpose and strength is best represented by the NBCTs in the field. In essence, you represent this organization and its mission; your role in its success and reach is beyond measure. We thank you for both your engagement and commitment, and we are eager to welcome the next group of teachers who are wishing to follow in **your** footsteps.*

Sincerely,

*The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and
The U.S. Bureau of Indian Education*