



NJDOE News

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Local Interest **Twelve New Jersey Teachers Achieve National Certification**

Twelve New Jersey teachers achieved national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in 2004-05, the national board has announced. Acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy praised the teachers for achieving the teaching profession's highest honor.

"The process for attaining national certification is rigorous and challenging," said Davy. "Successfully completing the requirements for national certification represents a prestigious accomplishment that has no equal in the teaching profession."

Davy pointed out that the process to become a National Board Certified Teacher incorporates all of the components of research-based professional development opportunities, providing an experience that is sustained, focused on content, inquiry based and collaborative.

Acting Commissioner Davy encouraged all teachers to consider national teacher certification as part of their professional development and join the growing ranks of New Jersey educators who hold the distinction. New Jersey now has 110 nationally certified teachers.

The newly certified teachers were feted recently at a recognition ceremony led by Acting Commissioner Davy, Acting Assistant Commissioner of Education Jay Doolan and Peggy Stewart, New Jersey Teacher of the Year for 2005 and a nationally certified teacher.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a board of directors, the majority of whom are classroom teachers. Their mission is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- Providing a national voluntary system to certify teachers who meet these standards; and
- Advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of nationally certified teachers.

National Board certification is achieved by completing a rigorous qualification process that takes between 200 and 400 hours to complete, over the course of one or more years. Teachers must complete an extensive series of performance-based assessments that probe the depth of their subject matter knowledge as well as their ability to manage, measure and improve student learning.

Since 2003, the New Jersey Department of Education has joined forces with the Business Coalition for Education Excellence, state education associations, the Educational Information & Resource Center (EIRC), and several New Jersey colleges to support candidates for National Board certification through a professional development package that includes state subsidies and graduate credits. Encouraging and supporting an increased number of candidates for national teacher certifications is one of the state's goals in education.

[Attached is a list of the 12 New Jersey teachers who were National Board certified in 2004-05.](#)