

Urbana School District 116

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

News Release

Contact Name: Mark Schultz
217-384-3650
mschultz@usd116.org

Date: December 10, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbana School District Proud of its National Board Certified Teachers

A teacher's professional development is never over. After receiving their teaching license, the learning never stops. Several Urbana School District #116 teachers have undertaken the immense challenge of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). Becoming a NBCT is a very high honor. Of the millions of teachers across the country, only 55,000 have received this National Certification, and 17 teachers in Urbana School District currently have earned the honor. Other teachers in District 116 are in the process of becoming certified.

"The National Board certification process is high quality professional development. In fact, NBCTs throughout the country have stated that this process is the 'best professional development' they have experienced," says Marcella Vancil, Wiley Elementary Teacher and Illinois Regional National Board Facilitator. She continues, "I am passionate about National Board Certification because I know the dramatic impact it has had on my own teaching. Teaching is a living, dynamic endeavor. Throughout my professional career I have continued to hone my craft through a plethora of coursework and other professional development opportunities. But the National Board Certification process provided an opportunity to actively document my own teaching and student learning as I examined effective strategies, pedagogy, current trends, and the prevailing needs of my students."

The process to become a NBCT is painstaking, difficult, and time-consuming. Once a teacher applies for National Certification, it may take up to three years to complete the process. A candidate must submit four portfolio entries—three must be classroom based, where video recordings and examples of student work support the documentation. A fourth entry relates to teacher accomplishments outside the classroom and how it impacts student learning. Teachers then must complete and pass six exercises where they demonstrate content knowledge in the subject they teach. Once certified, the designation is good for 10 years. In year eight, the teachers may begin to complete a detailed and rigorous "Profile of Professional Growth" and submit it to the National Board in order to become re-certified for another 10 years.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Don Owen is proud of the 17 NBCTs in District 116. Owen says, "The National Board process is challenging, and the board and the district have always tried to support the teachers who are going through the process. We are also thankful to have several NBCTs who have taken leadership roles in the district, region and state."

Teacher Julie Erlinger has been told that she has received her national certification. The other District 116 National Board Certified Teachers are:

- Marcella Vancil
- Jill Shoda
- Alexis Jones
- Susan Gleason
- Nancy Fehr
- Judith Pece
- Carol Casbeer
- Mark Freedman
- Judy Powell

- Evelyn Walton
- Jeanne Ward
- Phyllis Pete
- Glenna Rogers
- Paula Rogers
- Elizabeth Mears
- Frank Modica

For more information about National Board Certified Teachers, please see <http://www.nbpts.org/>.

Media wishing to talk about the Urbana School District #116 teachers obtaining National Board Certification, **please contact Marcella Vancil at 384-3670.**

Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!

Urbana School District • 205 North Race St. • P.O. Box 3039 • Urbana, IL 61803-3039