

Preface

The great promise of the National Board is that it clearly delineates standards for accomplished teaching and creates the prospect for a career continuum from entry to expert practice.

*-The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. 1996.
What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future. New York: Author*

As the Director of the National University Support and Leadership Center and the President of the California Association of NBCTs, I celebrate and applaud the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards organization, all that it represents and all that it charges us to do as professional educators and on behalf of the children we serve.

While teachers and school districts wrestle with the challenge of producing, employing and keeping high quality teachers, the NBPTS provides solutions to the problems and frustrations we face: teacher effectiveness, recruitment and retention issues, unacceptable achievement levels, ineffective professional development and lack of collaborative leadership opportunities.

The National Board provides all educators with a common language around what highly accomplished teachers should know and be able to do in the subjects that they teach and in alignment with the developmental levels of the students they serve. These standards are consistent with NCATE and INTASC accreditation criteria.

Simply by being exposed to these standards, at the very least, a teacher begins to transform his/her way of thinking and responding to teaching and learning. As teachers engage in the development of the NBCT portfolio entries, they are challenged to take greater responsibility for their own learning. To demonstrate accomplished teaching, they seek out resources to address their strengths and areas in need of improvement identified in their own performances as measured against the high and rigorous standards described in their certificate area of expertise.

At National University, our Chancellor and Faculty have embraced the mission, vision and goals of the NBPTS in multiple ways. Our overarching goal is to support teachers, administrators and school districts in their efforts to increase student achievement by utilizing the tools that the NBPTS provides through a collaborative model. Our NU-NBCT Support and Leadership Center serves communities across California and offers opportunities for professional development, support for candidates, graduate degrees and adjunct faculty positions for NBCTs. Most impressive are our two Master's Degree programs that require students to

develop the NBCT portfolio, either as an active or pre-candidate. Certified Support Providers serve as NBCT adjunct faculty who teach in the NBCT master's programs online, on ground or in hybrid delivery modes in states across the nation. Our goal is not to count the number of teachers who certify as a result of participation in our program, but rather, the number of students who provide evidence that their teaching and student learning improved as a result of engaging in the development of the portfolio exercises and aligned assignments.

The California Association of NBCTs (CaNBCT) is dedicated to providing all children with learning environments that enhance their full potential to achieve and succeed. We believe that National Board Certified Teachers and candidates are the key to creating schools that foster the academic excellence our children need to become successful, both in school and as members of our society. As with many other state NBCT organizations, the CaNBCT provides NBC Teacher Leaders with a platform for mobilizing so that their collective energy, expertise and knowledge is utilized in ways that penetrate and strengthen the educational system at the local, state and national levels.

This book, *Accomplished Teaching: The Key to National Board Certification*, effectively aligns with the NBPTS code of ethics and provides teachers with a resource that will support them as they analyze and reflect on the judgments and decisions they make about their practices and professional contributions, the achievement of their students and the steps they will take to continuously learn and develop in their professional careers. It is the best resource I have found to accompany instructors in our five NBCT university courses, as an aid for support providers and for teachers who choose to travel the NBCT journey alone.

Don't wait for someone else to encourage you — explore the NBCT assessment through the pages of this well organized book, start your Master's Degree with a NBCT focus, or go to the nbpts.org website and apply to be an active candidate!

So many choices, so many demands, so little time, but no excuses for not offering your most accomplished teaching to the students you serve.

Enjoy!

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