



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Johnson Thompson
Office: 683-4786 Cell: (501) 580-6508
Email: julie.thompson@arkansas.gov

250 ARKANSAS TEACHERS GAIN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards today released the names of 250 Arkansas teachers who attained National Board Certification in 2007, giving Arkansas the ninth largest number of newly certified teachers among all states in the country. This brings the total of National Board Certified Teachers in Arkansas to 833.

"Gaining this certification is a true sign of professionalism," said Dr. Ken James, Arkansas Commissioner of Education. "It is an involved, intense process, but it is an accomplishment that is well worth the while for teachers and students both."

The Arkansas Department of Education, as authorized by state law, pays the initial application fee for candidates who wish to become National Board Certified Teachers. Candidates, who must have three years of teaching experience, must submit portfolios including a videotape, student work and other teaching artifacts. The videotape and student work are supported by commentaries on the goals and purposes of instruction, reflections on what occurred, the effectiveness of the practice and the rationale for a candidate's professional judgment. In addition, candidates must complete assessment center exercises, which focus on pedagogical and content knowledge. A candidate has one to three years to achieve certification, and teachers report that they spend up to 400 hours in the candidate process during the first year.

In addition to the application fees, the state pays teachers with this certification a \$5,000 annual bonus for the 10-year life of the certification for a total \$3.7 million investment this year. Some Arkansas school districts award additional incentives to National Board Certified Teachers.

"This investment by the state and by local districts speaks directly to the emphasis Arkansas has placed on education and having quality teachers in our classrooms," Dr. James said.

The complete list of teachers gaining National Board Certification in 2007 are contained in the accompanying Excel spread sheet or online at <http://ArkansasEd.org>.

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The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.