



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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204 ARKANSAS TEACHERS GAIN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards today released the names of 204 Arkansas teachers who attained National Board Certification in 2006. This brings the total of Nationally Board Certified Teachers in Arkansas to 583.

"We are so pleased that this many teachers in Arkansas have succeeded in gaining national board certification," said Dr. Ken James. "It's a lengthy process, but teacher after teacher has told me that just going through all the steps helps them improve their instructional techniques. Attaining certification is a plus for them, of course, as well as a great benefit for their students."

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.

The state pays teachers with this certification a \$5,000 annual bonus for the 10-year life of the

Certification, and some Arkansas school districts award additional incentives to these teachers.

The complete list of teachers gaining national board certification in 2006 are contained in the accompanying Excel spread sheet.

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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.