



EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Steve Beshear
Governor

100 Airport Drive, 3rd Floor
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone (502) 564-4606
Fax (502) 564-7080
www.epsb.ky.gov

Robert L. Brown
Executive Director

NEWS RELEASE
September 30, 2014

Contact: Marcie Lowe
(502) 564-4606

State and National Education Partners Begin Kentucky Network to Transform Teaching

FRANKFORT, Ky. – This week marked the beginning of yet another exciting chapter for the history of the teaching profession in Kentucky. The first meeting of the Kentucky Network to Transform Teaching (KyNT3) was well attended on September 29, by state and national education leaders. Kentucky’s eight member NT3 team, representatives from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, members of the statewide NT3 Advisory Council, Kentucky National Board Certified Teachers, Kentucky General Assembly representatives and Governor Steve Beshear’s office, charted the future of the KyNT3.

Kentucky consistently ranks in the top ten nationally for the total number of NBCTs. The Governor, General Assembly, and state education partners have always been strongly supportive of teachers who work towards earning National Board Certification. “Kentucky is fortunate to have been chosen as one of six sites to participate in the U.S. Department of Education Supporting Educator Effective Development (SEED) grant. Kentucky was selected due to the efforts of the Kentucky Education Association, The Kentucky Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board. Today’s inaugural meeting of the Network to Transform Teaching (NT3) further represents the strong collaborative and statewide support from multiple educational partners” said Robert Brown, Executive Director of the Education Professional Standards Board.

National Board Certification (NBC) is the highest credential in the teaching profession. NBC demonstrates that teachers have attained the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for 21st century success. Teachers who have participated in National Board Certification have overwhelmingly stated it is the most powerful professional development experience of their careers. There have been 2,980 teachers in Kentucky who have earned National Board Certified Certification which moves the state closer to meeting its Legislative goal of at least one NBCT in every district by the year 2020.

“Kentucky has long been a leader in investing in board certification to advance teaching and learning,” said Joe Doctor, Senior Vice President for Strategy and Policy of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. “The National Board is delighted to partner with

organizations in Kentucky in the Network to Transform Teaching, where the state is working with other leading states and districts to significantly grow the number of Board certified teachers and to expand the opportunities for Board certified teachers to take on leadership roles. These critical efforts to strengthen the teaching profession aspire to the day when board certification is the norm, and every teacher is supported to develop accomplished teaching practice.”

National Board Certification is an arduous process, but it is one that causes teachers to learn, reflect, and apply their hard-earned experience to improvement of student learning in the classroom. It is practical and focused, and their students are the direct beneficiaries of this experience and training. “KEA has supported National Board Certification since its inception. We are delighted to partner with the standards board, department of education and other supporters to encourage more teachers to take advantage of this great leadership opportunity,” said Mary Ann Blankenship, Executive Director, Kentucky Education Association.

The three year SEED grant will help bring research and practice closer together and is focused on increasing student achievement in high-needs school, especially in STEM subjects, through increasing the number of highly effective NBCTs in high-need schools and through increasing the number of highly effective NBCTs filling hybrid instructional leadership roles in schools and districts. “We are encouraged by the support from NBCT” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holiday. “Our focus in Kentucky is to expand the number of leadership pathways that teachers can follow without completely leaving the classroom.”

The collaborative work of the six NT3 national sites anticipate that nearly 3,000 new NBCTs will be added to the nations’ teacher workforce, leading to greater opportunities for instructional leaders to be developed and anticipate that more than 500,000 students will be impacted over the three year grant period in Kentucky, Nevada, New York, Washington, Albuquerque and San Francisco. Technical support will be provided by NBPTS, American Institutes for Research, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

###

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KyNT3