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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Ranks 6th Nationally in NBPTS Certification Results

Kentucky Gains 200 National Board Certified Teachers

Frankfort, KY. (December 4, 2014) Kentucky moves even closer to meeting its Legislative goal of having at least one National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in every public school with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' announcement that 200 teachers in the Commonwealth have achieved the prestigious National Board Certification. Kentucky is ranked 6th in the number of teachers earning National Board Certification this year. National Board Certification demonstrates that teachers have attained the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for 21st century success. Kentucky's total number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) now totals 3,181, making it 9th in the nation.

Kentucky consistently ranks in the top ten nationally for the total number of NBCTs. "Since its inception, Kentucky's National Board Program, and its partnerships to support Kentucky teachers pursuing National Board Certification, has proved to be a model for many other states," said Robert Brown, Executive Director of the Education Professional Standards Board. "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate each of these educators for their extraordinary commitment to the education of Kentucky's children and for achieving the highest credential in the teaching profession." Upon successful completion of the National Board Certification process, Kentucky teachers currently holding a Rank II certificate are eligible to apply for Rank I and may serve as mentors for Kentucky's aspiring NBPTS candidates.

Kentucky has strong statewide support for National Board Certification. NBCTs are entitled to an annual \$2,000 salary bonus for the life of their certificate. "Teachers are our front line in preparing Kentucky's students to face tomorrow's challenges," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "This is quite an honor for our teachers and is something that requires a lot of work on their behalf," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "It improves their instruction and teaching abilities and elevates them professionally. And in the end, it benefits the children they teach."

Kentucky was also chosen as one of six sites to participate in the U.S. Department of Education Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant, The Kentucky Education Association (KEA), the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board are working together to expand the number of NBCTs across the commonwealth. By participating in the SEED initiative, our partners can further support additional efforts to improve and build the career continuum for all teachers. As part of this initiative, Kentucky's NBCTs will help lead the way in leadership areas including teacher evaluation, implementation of the Common Core State Standards and serve as Education Recovery Specialists in priority schools.

To date, more than 110,000 teachers in all 50 states and around the world have achieved this highest mark of accomplishment in the profession through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process. Saluting the nation's newest NBCTs, Ron Thorpe, National Board president and CEO, said: "The public clearly sees the value in Board certification as an assurance that teachers have met the profession's highest standards and have the knowledge and skills necessary to advance student learning," said Ronald Thorpe, president and CEO of the National Board. "Still, we have a long way to go to make Board certification the norm and the expectation in the profession. Today, only a small fraction of America's teachers are Board certified. We owe it to our students and our future to make them a majority - and to build the coherent trajectory that supports every teacher to reach accomplished practice."

NBCTs, are leading both in and outside of the classroom. A recent survey of NBCTs showed that 54 percent have served or are currently working as team leaders, 36 percent as department chairs and 15 percent as staff developers or instructional coaches. Forty-three percent of NBCTs have led efforts to implement the Common Core State Standards in their schools, districts and states, while the same percentage have been involved in leading the implementation of teacher evaluation systems through peer review or observation. More than three out of four NBCTs have led professional development efforts in their schools. In higher education, 234 NBCTs are serving as full-time faculty and 2,251 have served or are serving as adjunct faculty. On the state level, 116 are serving on a board of education.

National Board Certification is available in 25 certificate areas from Pre-K–12th grades. National Board Standards are written for teachers, by teachers and accomplished teachers are represented at every level of the organization, from key staff roles to the NBPTS Board of Directors and the Certification Council, which guides policy and implementation of the certification program.

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About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (www.nbpts.org):

The founding mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by: (1) maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; (2) providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and (3) advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers. Recognized as the "gold standard" in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.