

WNBN Report

Vol 4 No. 1

January 2010

Wisconsin National Board Network

*promoting National Board Certification
for Wisconsin teachers*

WNBN offers more facilitator training, candidate support

Welcome to the new year, and congratulations to those 86 candidates who have achieved National Board Certification!

Many of these new NBCTs have asked the question “what next?” For some, this question rises from the craving for more learning and growth stimulated by the certification process.

For others, this question lies at the heart of a desire to encourage their peers to share in this growth experience.

Regardless of the motivation, the question “what next” connects NBCTs to the mission of the Wisconsin National Board Network. The mission identifies several goals of the organization including:

- to promote National Board Certification,
- to support those seeking certification, and
- to encourage continued professional development, including leadership development for National Board Certified Teachers.

NBCTs throughout the state are achieving these goals by spear-heading ef-



**president's
message**

• deb
dosemagen

forts in districts, communities and the five Wisconsin regions to “grow their own” cadre of NBC candidates and teachers.

Energetic and committed NBCTs and colleagues in areas such as Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Jefferson, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, Milwaukee, Kimberly, Green Bay, and Kenosha have organized support sessions for candidates. Sessions targeting NBCTs who may be submitting renewal materials have also been organized.

Eager NBCTs like those who gathered for facilitator training at Mount Mary College on Jan. 9, tell their own stories of support and encouragement that helped them as candidates in all situations – including fast track and advanced – stay focused and successfully certify. Their focus now is on encouraging others to become involved and help-

ing others do the same.

All of these efforts have a common theme: connecting and communicating with those who have similar personal and professional goals.

In addition to the face-to-face sharing happening in educational communities around the state, several web-based communities have developed to help NBCTs and candidates stay connected.

The WNBN web site, first launched by past President Karen Corlyn, is now maintained by Shelia Kohl and Bill Hurley and hosted by WEAC (http://www.weac.org/Professional_Resources/certification/index.aspx). This site features links to a variety of professional resources as well as to the National Board Certification Blog and the WNBN Groupsite maintained by Kristen Henningfeld.

Thank you to all those who have committed to the mission of the Wisconsin National Board Network and have worked to achieve its goals. Full speed ahead!

Deb Dosemagen
WNBN President 09-10

GroupSite: keep up to date

Groupsite is a must for Wisconsin National Board Certified teachers to keep informed about what is happening around the state.

It's a place to discuss educational issues, find out about opportunities for training or advancement, learn of volunteer opportunities, and get to know other NBCTs.

Go to Groupsite at wnbn.groupsite.com and join the crowd. Be sure to fix your settings so you get regular posting updates via your email.

For example, one recent posting was about **Meg Graham**:

“NBCT Meg Graham was featured in the WEAC member spotlight.” Click [here](#) to read how her professional life has changed as a result of National Board Certification.



Meg Graham

On the Side

Call for readers

Kenosha Unified seeks NBCTs to read portfolios and watch videos with candidates on Feb. 20 and March 13 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Please contact Angela Haut (mrshaut@gmail.com) if you are interested. Stipends will be available for your time.

Mentors needed

The Sheboygan Area Support Group is hosting a one day writing retreat from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13. We are in need of mentors. If you would be willing to come and read/watch videos of candidates' work, please contact Julie Huss at jhuss@sheboygan.k12.wi.us. There will be a small stipend available.

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86 Wisconsin NBCTs certify in 2009

Wisconsin now has 676 NBCTs, showing a 15% increase this year.

The greatest number of 2009 NBCTs come from the Madison and Sheboygan school districts, each having 10 teachers certify. Milwaukee came in third with eight new NBCTs; Holmen had six new NBCTs; Franklin and Sun Prairie each had five new NBCTs .

The districts with the highest total of NBCTs are Madison with 52, Milwaukee with 30, Manitowoc with 24, and Eau Claire and Sheboygan each with 16.

Art/EAYA

Susan Iverson, Sparta
Teresa Parris Ford, Madison
Melissa Winker, Madison

Career & Technical Education/EAYA

Mark Ellis, Sheboygan
Gordon Gasch, Brillion
Nicholas Gilles, Spring Valley
Paul Majors, Whitewater

English Language Arts/AYA

Denise Meyer, Onalaska

English - New Language/EMC

Kelly Jones, Madison
Laura Vargo, Milwaukee
Cynthia Zielinski, Milwaukee

Exceptional Needs Specialist/ECYA

Nancie Brennan, Green Bay
Kim Cline, Sheboygan
Erin Krase-Minck, Franklin
Daniel Rhode, Mineral Point
Katherine Rybak, Sun Prairie
Julie Stumbras, Sun Prairie
Dawn Tauscher, Holmen
Christine Thiel, Sheboygan
Kimberly Trendel, Franklin
Lynne Wilson, Holmen

Generalist/EC

Anita Bensman, Milwaukee
Jami Collins, Marshall
Stephanie Dalton, Wauwatosa
Jessica Diebel, Milwaukee
Robin George, Holmen
Marsha Herman, Sun Prairie
Jennifer Johnson, Onalaska
Julie Koleno, Sheboygan
Shawn Moore, Manitowoc
Allison Nyara, Bayfield
Christine Sebranek, Galesville-
Ettrick-Trempeleau
Debra Sirek, Rice Lake
Jeri Stauffer, Holmen

Generalist/MC

Christine Ahrens, Sheboygan
Jenny Engels, Sheboygan
Theresa Ericksmoen, Holmen
Susan Freiss, Verona
Angela George, Milwaukee
Patsy Hool, Verona
Jodi Hoscheit, Holmen
Jennifer Koenecke, Hortonville
Bruce Peterson, Westby
Karen Rehorst Porras, Milwaukee
Nicholas Sirek, Eau Claire
Therese Urben, Sheboygan

Library Media/ECYA

Christine Lindsey, Ashland
Donna Smith, Arrowhead, Hartland

Literacy: RLA/EMC

Jessica Edwards, Sun Prairie
Kelly Isselmann, Valders
Cynthia Kane, Wisconsin Rapids
Sandra Kowalczyk, Sun Prairie
Kellie Miller, Madison
Rachael Schroeder, Mineral Point

Mathematics/EA

Sharonda Harris, Milwaukee
Michelle Koenig, Franklin
Sarah Lima, Milton
Mary Ploeser, Madison
Jennifer Spors, West Bend

Mathematics/AYA

Molly Coughlin, River Falls
Dominic Johann-Berkel, Madison
Kimberly Serene, River Falls
Stacy Shrode, Kimberly
Steven Somerson, Madison

Music/EMC

Jennifer Jakubowski, Grafton
Amy Schiefelbein, Sun Prairie

Music/EAYA

Sarah Holst, Menomonee Falls
Cheryl Miracle, Franklin

Physical Education/EAYA

Joey Luba, Racine

School Counseling/ECYA

Kevin Formolo, Sheboygan
Sharon Hansen, Berlin

Science/EA

M. Gillian Arbuckle King, Fond du Lac
Mary Fassbender, Franklin
Jennifer Huckleby, Milwaukee
Kevin Kiel, Manitowoc
Ann Kroncke, Platteville
Lynnete McCarty, New Richmond

Science/AYA

Betsy Barnard, Madison
Timothy Corcoran, Stevens Point
Eric Gettrust, Madison
Jason Strauss, Verona
Timothy Thompson, Madison

Social Studies - History/AYA

Jay Johnson, Sheboygan
Rebecca Letter, Sheboygan

World Languages/EAYA

Ellen Grunder, Waunakee
Michelle Syverson Weber, Kettle
Moraine, Wales

NBCT Profile



Maggie Fischer
MC/Gen

Current School: Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School (Milwaukee Public Schools)

Email: dan9eli3@yahoo.com

Grade taught: Third

Years Teaching: about 10 years

Reason for becoming an NBCT:

I was a certified teacher in the state of California and had a lot of requirements to fulfill to become certified in Wisconsin. I decided that just in case I might have to make a move again – I would become nationally certified.

Administrative support: My principal was very supportive. I was given two professional days to work on my entries. I took those in March right before I sent off my entries. I highly recommend letting your administrator know of your intentions.

Most important teaching skill: I was a substitute teacher for a year. This was a very hard year because I never knew what my teaching context would be until I entered the classroom. This experience, however, was invaluable. I learned to think quickly and to always try to keep one step ahead of my students.

Teaching wish: I would love a document camera in my classroom.

Heroes and why: My dad is my hero. He's my loudest cheerleader. When I told him just how tough it was to pass National Board Certification the first time, he pretended to ignore me.

Advice to NBCT candidates: I attended as many candidate support workshops as I could. I found these to be invaluable. I also made sure that every day I would do "something" in regard to the requirements of the portfolio – even if it was just to jot down some notes.



Kenosha National Board Candidate cohort: (back row) Joan Wansart, Bert Felland, Anna MacMahon, Sarah Yee, Beth Smith, Amy Holm and (front row) Angela Haut, Kimberly George, Sharon Ainsworth, Beth Wiltshire

Journey of a Lifetime Kenosha teachers aim for NB Certification

2009 is an exciting year for Kenosha Unified School District where their first cohort of National Board candidates is working through the portfolio process.

It all started when **Angela Haut** moved to Kenosha from Los Angeles in 2007. She was in her second year of candidacy when she arrived and had the *aha* moment that shifted her thinking.

After attending a conference on professional learning communities, Haut said, "I had always thought that National Board Certification was about proving what a great teacher I was. When I finally understood that demonstrating accomplished teaching only comes through student learning, I felt like I had unlocked the secret."

From that point on, Haut's teaching changed and became truly centered on student learning. The results were evident in the success of her students and Haut became more excited about teaching than ever.

After two years of frustration and disappointment, Haut achieved

certification as Middle Childhood Generalist in her third and final year of candidacy. Haut said she doesn't regret taking all three years to certify.

"I learned more for those last two points than I did for the entire first 273. My teaching was totally transformed."

After seeing such positive results in her classroom, Haut couldn't wait to help other teachers transform their teaching, but didn't want others to have to struggle through the process alone like she had.

She began working with the professional development office to help other teachers find out about National Board Certification by hosting some informational sessions. More than 40 teachers turned up to find out more.

Last summer, 21 teachers took a district professional development course to study the National Board standards and portfolio instructions. Eight of those teachers are now Kenosha's pioneer NBCT candidates and two more are Take One! candidates this year.

Kenosha candidates

Here's what five EC Generalist candidates from Kenosha have to say about their experience so far.



"I'm already a better teacher for having started this process."

~ Bert Felland



"I think my journey will be long but wonderful!"

~ Anna MacMahon



"It's the most amazing growth I have had in my career through any professional development I have ever taken."

~Sarah Yee

"AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH!!!" (as she waves
her hands over her head)

~ Beth Wiltshire



"Inquiry science is my new best friend."

~ Beth Smith

DARE TO THINK JANUARY 2010 PHOTO ALBUM

Photos by Linda Barrington

candidate opinion



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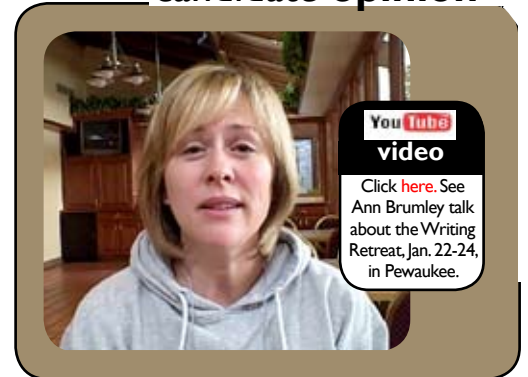
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video

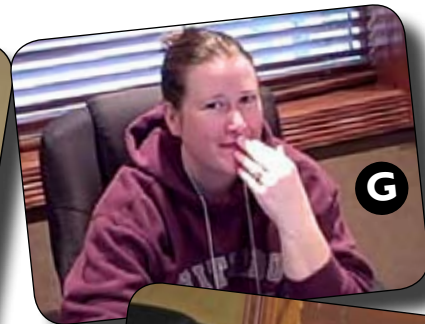
Click [here](#). See Ann Brumley talk about the Writing Retreat, Jan. 22-24, in Pewaukee.



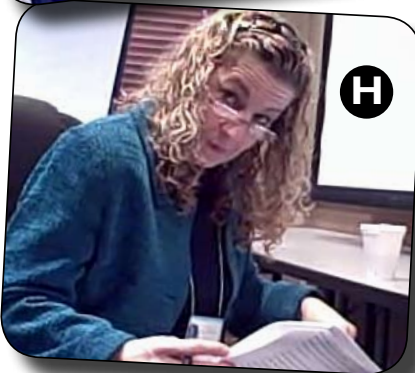
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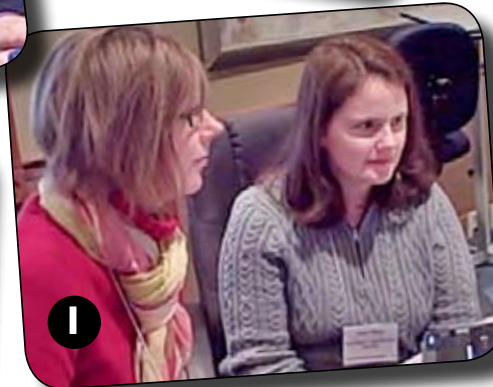
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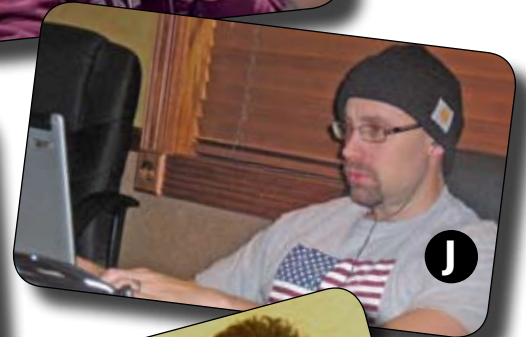
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- A. Nicole Lutzke and Ann Prophett, both from Monroe School District
 B. **Jo Christianson**, NBCT, director of this Dare to Think Writing Retreat
 C. **Ron Jetty**, WEAC, at opening of event
 D. Patrick Osowski, Ripon SD
 E. **Deanna Brunlinger**, NBCT, and Amy Fassbender, Waunakee SD
 F. Barbara Staff, Madison SD
 G. Candace Behnke, Oconto Falls SD
 H. **Bonnie Scholz**, NBCT
 I. **Bonnie Dimond**, NBCT, and Karen Murphree, Marshall SD
 J. Mark Zielinski, Sheboygan SD
 K. **Laurie Kopp**, NBCT
 L. Candidates line up to sign "dance cards"; **Cathy Anderson**, NBCT, at right

Advanced candidacy: not so bad after all

Kettle Moraine School District special education teacher Sandy Lookatch was not entirely shocked when her first portfolio did not earn a high enough score to ensure her certification this November.

“After three different mentors expressed concern over my assessment question and protocol, I had a pretty good idea it was not going to ‘pass.’” Nevertheless, it was still disappointing to realize her work towards certification would continue.

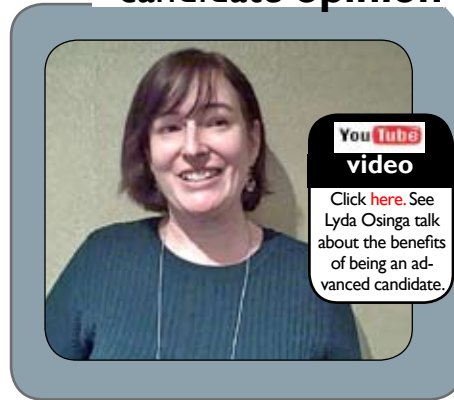
She is not the only one. Advanced candidacy requires a sizable investment in time and money. Typically advanced candidates experience some form of let-down after staring at their computer screen and realizing they didn’t pass.

At a recent writing retreat an advanced candidate said, “My mistake was looking up my scores at school instead of waiting ‘til I got home. I wound up struggling not to cry in front of other teachers and students.”

It might be encouraging to know, this same teacher is now completely invested in her second round of the certification process. In fact, many advanced candidate believe becoming certified will be even more rewarding for them because of the additional effort they have put into it.

They also believe that their teaching

candidate opinion



practice continues to deepen as a result of advanced candidacy.

Of course not all advanced candidates are disappointed; some initially plan for a second and even third year of work toward this prestigious certification.

For example, teachers may choose to complete Take One before embracing the rigor of three additional portfolio entries and assessment center testing. Others may face unexpected personal or professional challenges that require them to stagger the process or temporarily withdraw.

Mukwonago Area School District science teacher Alison Wierzbicki explained, “When I was hospitalized for an at-risk

pregnancy, I decided to wait until the following year and start fresh. It was frustrating because of the work I had put in but it was definitely the right decision for my family and me.”

Wisconsin Advanced Candidate chairperson **Wendy Sondrol** said, “Wisconsin NBCT’s continue to grow in their ability to understand advanced candidacy and how best to offer support. We try to address both the portfolio/assessment process as well as the emotional experience of becoming an advanced candidate.”

Moreover, WNBN is developing a unique set of resources to assist advanced candidates interpret their scores and offer portfolio guidance including advanced candidate mentors and Dare to Think break out sessions.

This effort is especially important because nationally speaking, an average of 70 percent of first year candidates will require advanced candidacy in order to become certified. As more Wisconsin teacher seek certification, more teachers will in turn, become advanced candidates. Each teacher will have a different story and set of scores.

As Sondrol explained, “It is important that we don’t allow a candidate’s initial disappointment over not certifying to become discouragement with the process itself.”

Wisconsin NBCTs win Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics, Science

Six Wisconsin National Board Certified Teachers have received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in the last four years, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards reports. They are



Dana Krajcarek
2005



Jay Farnsworth
2006



Karen Nesbit
2008

- **Karen Nesbit** • Franklin, 2008
- **Lorna Thomas Vazquez** • Granton, 2007
- **Jeanine Lynn Gelhaus** • Medford, 2007
- **William Jay Farnsworth** • Waunakee, 2006
- **Dana Krejcarek** • Kohler, 2005
- **Michelle Parks** • Eau Claire, 2005

The award recipients for 2009 will be announced in July 2010.

Vazquez also won the 2008–09 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow-

ship, which allows her to share her expertise with the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists at the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.

Gelhaus is a current U.S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellow. She has also received the Wisconsin Science Teacher of the Year award, Wisconsin Environmental Educator Award, and two National Science Teacher Association awards. She was also awarded a NASA, Fulbright Hayes and Fulbright Memorial fellowships.

We’re proud of...YOU!

We want to acknowledge your accomplishments and awards! But we don’t know what you’ve done or what awards you’ve won.

E-mail Linda Barrington at lbarring@wi.rr.com. The WNBN Report would like to honor people in each issue. The next issue will be published in May.

contact us

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Editor: Linda Barrington, lbarring@wi.rr.com

President: Deb Dosemagen, dosemagd@mtmary.edu

Suggestions, comments, corrections, articles: send to the editor.