

Just earned NB Certification? Not too soon to start renewal

It may seem like only yesterday when you logged in to the NBPTS web site and read that critical salutation, "Congratulations." Whether that was eight years ago, or just eight months, it's not too soon to be thinking about your license renewal.

The license renewal process is very different from the initial certification process. As an NBCT, you develop a Profile of Professional Growth built upon four Professional Growth Experiences (PGEs) that you view as central to your professional development since certification.

The PGEs you describe highlight certificate-specific content and pedagogy, illustrate the effective use of technology and collaboration, and are rich, multi-dimensional experiences.

Professional Growth Experiences may be classroom-based (like Entries 1, 2, and 3 in the initial portfolio), or school or community-based (like Entry 4). Regardless of the context, however, you must be able to give evidence of a direct or indirect impact on student learning.

Like the initial certification process, your Profile of Professional Growth demonstrates your com-



president's
message

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mitment to reflect on your practice in light of the NBPTS Propositions and Standards.

Renewal also requires a video tape of an instructional segment in your certification area documented within year eight or nine of certification and also may include analysis of student work. As in the directions for initial certification, prompts are provided to guide the development of your written commentary. For example:

- Explain how you have acquired and deepened your content knowledge to remain current including use of research and/or use of other professional activities.
- Explain how you have acquired and deepened your pedagogical skills to remain current, including use of current research and/or use of other professional activities.
- Discuss your acquisition of

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Conference NBCT ribbons available for your nametag

If you've gone to state or national conferences, you've probably seen colorful ribbons stuck to the edge of people's nametags, identifying them as speakers or board members or whatever. WNBN now has a supply of red ribbons that say **NBCT**.

If you would like one (or more) for yourself for a conference or convention you'll be attending, just e-mail Linda Barrington (lbarring@wi.rr.com) or Karen Corlyn (corlynkk@sbcglobal.net) to have some mailed to you. Please provide your address.

Thank you to Ron Corlyn (Karen's husband) for donating the ribbons.

New NBCTs' opinions needed

If you're a relatively new NBCT (three years or less), we'd like to hear how your NB certification has made a difference in your teaching, your career, your life, etc. It doesn't have to be long, but I'd like to hear from a good number of you. I think a lot of people would be really interested to hear what you have to say.

E-mail Linda Barrington at lbarring@wi.rr.com.

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.

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. [See reprint of article about Groupsite, NBCTLink and the WNBN website on p. 8.]

On the Side

Facilitator training scheduled for WEAC Summer Academy in Stevens Point, July 25-28

Facilitator training is essential for any NBCT who wants to work as a mentor to NB candidates or even just give feedback to individual entries at a workshop. Facilitators receive uniform training in skills and ethics, both of which are essential to doing the job right.

This summer a National Board Facilitators Institute will be held in Stevens Point as part of the WEAC Summer Academy. WNB members and WEAC's Ron Jetty are working together to provide this opportunity for NBCTs' to acquire training.

For this special event, Jetty is bringing in Nancy Flanagan to run the training. She is an NBCT from Michigan and former NBPTS faculty member. Many NBCTs in Wisconsin may already know her from workshops or Wisconsin NB Summit. Nancy is the co-creator of NBPTS's Candidate Support Provider Training. She writes her blog, *Teacher in a Strange Land*, for Teacher Leaders Network and *Teacher* magazine.



Nancy Flanagan

Besides her experience in training support providers and candidates, she also has expertise in Take One! support and using tools of National Board Certification to build personal professional learning plans.

Her professional biography can be found at her Teacher's Lead website, http://teacherslead.com/Bio_Nancy.html

If you are interested in taking the Facilitator Training, but are unavailable at the time of this summer's training, contact [Ron Jetty](#) to be put on a list for those wanting to be trained. You'll be notified of opportunities as they arise.

National Board Facilitators Institute Information about Summer Academy

WHEN: Sunday, July 25 - Wednesday, July 28, 2010

WHAT: This course is designed for National Board Certified Teachers. Participants in the Facilitators Institute will learn to provide assistance to teachers seeking National Board Certification. The course will be facilitated by National Board Certified trainers and will focus on all aspects of candidate support. Individuals who participate in this training will be able to conduct quality candidate support. This is for NBCTs currently providing support, as well as NBCTs who are planning to provide candidate support.

WHERE: Holiday Inn Stevens Point – Convention Center Hotel, Hwy 10 East; 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point

HOW SOON?

Registration deadline: Friday, July 16, 2010

Lodging deadline: Sunday, July 4, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://www.weac.org/Calendar_And_Events/calendar/SummerAcademy.aspx

NBCT Profile



**Mike
Michalsky**
ELA/AYA

NB Certification: English Language Arts Adolescent and Young Adulthood, 2008

School: Wisconsin Dells High School

Subjects taught: Novels, Yearbook, Advanced Composition, Short Stories, Mass Media

Years Teaching: 14

Teaching Mission/Philosophy: I work hard to create lessons that push students to their limits, so they are ready for life outside of school. I work very hard to be open and honest with students while enforcing the rules equitably. A big part of my philosophy also involves using humor. I have found that humor can replace raising the voice or challenging students in front of their peers, and often it gets the same result. I love teaching English, I love the students at WDHS, and I think this makes me work hard to give them everything I can.

Reason for becoming a NBCT: I wanted to challenge myself and prove qualitatively that I was doing a good job in the classroom. I had a ton of respect for colleagues who had gone through this process, and I saw it as a defining moment in their careers.

Teaching allies: Linda Barrington and Terri Karsten (mentors), Anne Klein (NBPTS Art @ Wisconsin Dells High School)

Biggest challenge: Managing the stress of the project and finding the time to do it while coaching and raising three little kids

Greatest success: Passing the NBPTS process and becoming a Fulbright Memorial Scholar

Most important teaching skill: Humor and knowledge of content

Teaching wish: Less politics in teaching.

Makes me smile: Seeing the students get their Yearbooks the first day we hand them out, and my wife and three children.

Heroes and why: Pat Neary – a retired teacher from Oconomowoc High School. He was my baseball coach and Social Studies teacher. He taught us how to do things right, and he was a very humble, honest, and ethical man. He was the type of man that you want to emulate.

Advice to NBCT candidates: Don't get frustrated and overly stressed. Also, find a good mentor early in the process. It makes a huge difference.

NBCT Profile



**Tom
Mulligan**
ELA/AYA

NB Certification: English Language Arts Adolescent and Young Adulthood, 2006

School: Nathan Hale High School

District: West Allis-West Milwaukee

Subjects taught: American Literature, English 9 (inclusion)

Years Teaching: 17

Teaching Mission/Philosophy: If you are not constantly trying to be the best in your profession, what's the point?

Reason for becoming a NBCT: I had little interest in churning credits in grad school simply to move up the pay scale. The challenge of the NBPTS assessment drew me in because it gave me the opportunity to put my money where my (always running) mouth was.

Administrative support: While there was little in the way of official support, my administrators –and especially my principal, Kathy MacDonald – gave me what I needed.

Teaching allies: My colleagues are and were great allies during the process. The best of them was, and is, Ms. Jennifer Pennington – a far better teacher than I.

Biggest challenge: In 2005 had two very young children – time, always time.

Biggest headache: Teachers who tell students that education should be “fun” or that there is no “right” answer.

Greatest success: When a former student says they were well prepared and confident about what came next.

Most important teaching skill: The ability to convince a freshman that success is worth the hard work.

Teaching wish: To keep teaching.

Makes me smile: Jay, Adelle, and Finn.

Heroes and why: My wife Cassandra who has always pushed me by example to be a better person than I am.

Advice to NBCT candidates: The process is hard, but you'll find moments of clarity, purpose, and beauty that you would never find otherwise. Also, if you look as funny on tape as I did, there are a lot of laughs.



Following the Take One! path of staff development, all the teachers in the Bayfield School District will participate in this part of the National Board process. Five Bayfield teachers are already NBCTs, and will mentor the other teachers.

Bayfield School District to do NBPTS Take One! project this fall

Wisconsin will have its first district-wide THNI Take One! project in the Bayfield School District this fall. All of the NBCTs in the district will be asked to be mentors for the rest of the staff.

Bayfield SD has five NBCTs: David Doering, Richard Erickson, Allison Nyara, Stacy Peterson and Carol Sowl. Their certifications cover elementary, middle and high school ages and include early and middle childhood generalists, math, English and career and technical education.

Ron Jetty of WEAC has acquired the funding to get all of them the online facilitator training from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

“They’ll have strong support for staff development focused on NBPTS standards in northern Wisconsin,” Jetty said. “It’s funny, WEAC has over 410 locals and only three of them are north of Hwy. 2. The first district-wide NBPTS project is in one of those three locals.”

Elsewhere in the northern part of the state, Lynda Sullivan reports that candidates in the Northern Tier Uniserv were given the opportunity for support through monthly sessions in Rhinelander.

Josh Skubal, Northern Tier uniserv director coordinated with Sullivan to set up candidate support workshops. Newsletters, food and the meeting room were provided by Skubal and his staff at the Northern Tier Uniserv office. Thank you to the leadership of Josh Skubal for bringing the workshops to the North Woods!

Connie Wolf and Lynda Sullivan provided the WI-FI Wisconsin Facilitator Training to three outstanding NBCTs: Jeanine Gelhaus, Linda Callewaert and Karen Breedlove. The three newly trained NBCT facilitators generously gave of their time and talents by providing a monthly workshop at the Northern Tier office to the candidates from Northern Wisconsin.

Presenters included Cathy Anderson, Jim and Pat Johnson, Breedlove, Callewaert, Gelhaus and Sullivan.



with **Lynda Sullivan,**
NBCT, Ph.D.

We're proud of Lynda Sullivan!

This is the first in a series of Q&As with NBCTs who are no longer in the K-12 classroom. They are serving students and teachers in other ways – as specialists, as administrators, as college instructors, etc.

If you would like to be featured, send your answers to these questions (and your photo) to lbarring@wi.rr.com.

Q What kind of work are you now doing after leaving the K-12 classroom?

A Program Director for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. As program director, I assist teachers seeking their Master's Degree in Education in the State of Wisconsin.

Q Why did you decide to take on this new position?

A I have been an adjunct faculty for SMU for the past 14 years teaching a variety of graduate level courses around the State of Wisconsin. During those years I was able to take on various leadership roles that lead to the current position. Also, I love challenges!!!!

Q Was your NB certification influential in your getting this new job? YES!!!

A First, my PH.D. Dissertation research at UW-Madison included interviewing Wisconsin National Board Certified teachers to discern if there was a "blueprint" of characteristics or background experiences that lead to certification.

Second, after receiving certification, my mission was to develop the capstone project that incorporates the National Board Standards into the thinking and writing for the SMU Master Degree.

Teachers now receiving their degree through SMU produce a portfolio that provides evidence of nine competency for their Master's:

- research
- self-development and reflection(PDP),
- develop curricula (content knowledge)
- understanding child growth and development
- establish and adapt curricula to meet child's learning goals
- appreciate and demonstrate the ability to deal with diversity
- communicate effectively
- develop informal and use formal assessment
- use technology to enhance the delivery of instruction for optimum student learning
- exhibit ethical behavior and professionalism.

My knowledge of the National Board Standards was instrumental in the development of a relevant graduate level project.

And finally, being involved with WEAC as Central Wisconsin coordinator for candidate support provided the opportunity to develop workshops and presentations for adult learners.



Lynda Sullivan

Q With whom do you work?

A I work with teachers at all stages of their careers and recruit outstanding faculty from the Wisconsin K-12 system. In addition, I work with the Deans of Academics and Graduate School of Professional Programs at Saint Mary's University.

Q Where do you work?

A I have the best work locations70% of my time is in my home, 20% around the state of Wisconsin and 10 % in Minnesota.

Q How long have you been doing this?

A Ten months

QAny regrets in leaving the K-12 classroom?

A I truly missed the excitement of the start of the 09-10 school year. September was difficult, but after a few weeks with the responsibilities in my new position, I adjusted very well. I have NO Regrets!

Q Explain what you like about your present job.

A EVERYTHING!!! I LOVE working with teachers improving their practice through attaining their Master Degree or as a facilitator for NB candidate support.

Q Any other comments?

A National Boards did open many doors, including the opportunity to work with outstanding Wisconsin NBCTs and educators!

I look forward to seeing new NBCTs for the WI-FI training at WEAC Summer Academy in Stevens Point! Together making a difference for the students of Wisconsin!

I love talking about improving education for WISCONSIN students and look forward to any comments or "chats" !

My business card proudly indicates that I am a National Board Certified Teacher:

[Lynda Sullivan](#) NBCT, Ph.D.

Saint Mary's University

Program Director - Education Wisconsin

1-877-442-4020 (I even have a toll free number!)

NBPTS offers daily e-mail newsletter

Have you signed up with NBPTS to receive their daily e-mail newsletter?

It comes from Accomplished Teacher by SmartBrief (nbpts@smartbrief.com)

To sign up, go to <http://www.smartbrief.com/nbpts/>

According to the Web page, this newsletter gives you information that will help you

- * Improve teaching and student learning
- * Advance your teaching career

* Get the latest news and information from NBPTS.

Get up to speed. Sign up today.

Accomplished Teacher® by SmartBrief brings you the teaching and learning news that really matters. Their editors handpick key articles from hundreds of publications specifically with NBCTs in mind, do a brief summary of each and provide links back to the original sources.

In other words, they do all the research...and you get the news you need, without the fluff.

Renewal process: NBCTs committed to personal growth, student learning

Continued from page 1

and/or effective and appropriate use of technology.

- Discuss how your interaction with colleagues, other professional groups, parents, and/or community members has enhanced your professional growth.

Unlike the requirements of the initial process, artifacts (with the exception of video segments) may be gathered throughout the certification timeframe, which is why it's never too early to start planning for renewal.

The renewal process also offers an NBCT a significant amount of freedom to determine the nature of experiences that have had an impact not only on professional growth, but also on student learning.

For example, an NBCT whose primary role is no longer classroom teacher (see Q & A on page 4), may select experiences from the realms of teacher leadership, administration, teacher education or a variety of other arenas.

As always, The NBPTS web site

provides a variety of helpful tools to help you think about renewal.

The Renewal at a Glance publication (http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/File/Renewal_AtGlance.pdf) outlines the basic requirements of the process.

The Profile of Professional Growth (http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/File/Profile_ProfGrowth.pdf) document details the process step-by-step.

The Renewal Calendar (http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/File/THE_COLOR_OF_YOUR_NBCT_FUTURE.pdf) details application deadlines and completion windows.

The Renewal Process in its form and content acknowledges NBCTs as independent learners committed to their own professional growth framed by the NBPTS propositions and standards, and to student learning as the center of practice. NBCTs who are classroom teachers, teacher leaders, teacher educators or all of the above benefit from this opportunity once again to closely examine their practice and share the results.

Deb Dosemagen

WNBN President 09-10

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 [\[ring@wi.rr.com\]\(mailto:ring@wi.rr.com\). The WNBN Report would like to honor people in each issue. The next issue will be published in fall.](mailto:lbar-</p>
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NBCT Profile



Kerry Thomas
ELA/AYA

NB Certification: English Language Arts Adolescent and Young Adulthood, 2007

School: Rufus King International School, High School Campus (name changes July 1)

City: Milwaukee

Subjects taught: Literary Studies, IB English I (juniors), Advanced Journalism Workshop

Years Teaching: 15

Teaching Mission/Philosophy: All students can learn; most students have more potential than they realize, and many need help learning to believe in themselves. Academic rigor for all children is critical to forming thinking, literate citizens. I believe I work for my students (not the board or the superintendent or the district), and I believe that's true of anyone in education.

Reason for becoming a NBCT: I've always been a reflective learner and educator; I'm also a professional development junkie, constantly and chronically looking for ways to improve. It made sense to use National Boards as another avenue to do this.

Administrative support: Marie Newby-Randle, principal; Paul Gessner, curriculum generalist

Teaching allies: Maggie Cinto, Jeremy Nichols, Kelly O'Keefe-Boettcher, Steven Wagner, Bianca Williams-Griffin; Conference on English Leadership colleagues (too many to name)

Biggest challenge: Balance!

Biggest headache: Educational bureaucracy, locally and nationally

Greatest success: At the moment it's my journalists winning Wisconsin News Association's top prize; but watching a student who struggles and finally gets it is always the greatest success at any given moment in time.

Most important teaching skill: Reflection! It's what allows me to reach my students in better ways. I constantly keep files and notes on things I do to refine both approach and process.

Advice to NBCT candidates: Enjoy the process, stressful as it may be. Be open to new learning and to finding ways to work on your weaknesses – we all have them. The process is a good, safe way to do that. If you can, find a group of people you can trust and share with; it will support you through the process.

from NBPTS via Jolynn Tarwater

Letter to all state affiliates from NBPTS Teacher in Residence May 11, 2010

Hi everyone!

I hope everyone is weathering the end of the school year well. This is such a tough time for teachers, and it means that now, more than ever, teachers need to stick together! We here at the NBPTS are pleased and grateful that you all are so dedicated in maintaining your NBPTS Network Affiliate.

I want to update you all on a few things. First of all, the NBPTS Board of Directors has approved an updated Network Affiliate Policy. When I started at NBPTS last year, there was little set personnel or procedures in working with Network Affiliates. We now have an updated policy so that we can move toward a more cohesive plan in reaching out, collaborating, and helping NBPTS Network Affiliates. We also have a new license agreement and a new logo. I am extremely appreciative to our Board of Directors who serve on the Education Committee for their guidance on these two foundational pieces for working with Networks. Highlights include:



Jolynn Tarwater, NBPTS Teacher in Residence



- The new Network logo for your websites, blogs, stationery! We have created this logo exclusively for Network Affiliates. You will see an example of how to personalize it with your Network name in Exhibit B of the license agreement. Please phase out use of the regular “Jot the Dot” logo for pins/websites, etc. I am working on having the ability for Networks to create their own customized Network gear through our NBCT online store. [WNBN note: This will NOT replace our logo and pin. We have permission to keep and use both of them.]
- Updated descriptions of how NBPTS and Networks can work together. For example, we will send out a blast email to NBCTs in your area for you twice a year. We have tried this with our Wisconsin Network and it worked well. We sent the blast email to Wisconsin NBCTs with an introduction to the Network and links to where they could contact Network leaders and give them updated information. They also had a link to read the most current version of their wonderful newsletter.

Another update is our new DREAM Team members. DREAM stands for Direct Recruitment Efforts to Attract Minorities. Congratulations to all of our NBCTs who are our new DREAM Team. They will be working in their states and districts to recruit teachers to the NBPTS process. Please connect with these NBCTs if they are in your region! [Jolynn provided a list of the DREAM Team members and their email addresses.]

NBPTS is pleased to announce their new book, *Accomplished Teachers—Institutional Perspectives*. From the webpage: *Accomplished Teachers, Institutional Perspectives* provides perspectives from a wide range of policymakers, administrators and practitioners on the value and utility of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. In describing their various experiences working with NBPTS, the authors challenge the nation’s Pre K-12 and post secondary education system and state/local governing bodies—as well as the National Board itself—to expand the linkage between the NBPTS standards and assessment process and teacher preparation, program accreditation and state licensure. Check it out! It is available as hard copy or Kindle version! http://www.nbpts.org/products_and_services/books/accomplished_teachers

Lastly, I would like to invite you to visit NBCTLink and check out the Wisconsin page. [Detailed directions are on page 8 which was originally published in the September 2009 issue of the WNBN Report.]

Jolynn E. Tarwater, NBCT
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NBPTS offers Summer Advocacy Institute: Free webinar training provided at your computer

If you're registered at Groupsite, you already have this information from a posting by Ron Jetty. (If you're not, see the article on page 1 about how to register on WNBPN's Groupsite page.) Other information in this article comes from the NBPTS website.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards would like to give you as highly accomplished teachers and leaders in your schools and communities, the opportunity to learn more about how you can share your expertise in ways that can have a tremendous impact on education policy.

We invite you to participate at no cost in the Summer Advocacy Institute, an on-line webinar-based training program with a diverse array of both teacher advocates and policy experts. Following the completion of the webinars, participants will have the opportunity to schedule and attend meetings with their federal, state and local policy makers.

This six-part webinar series is designed to capitalize on the experience and expertise of NBCTs, who will:

- learn strategies to raise awareness of National Board Certification and its impact on teacher quality, student achievement and learning.
- provide expertise and perspectives of accomplished teachers on pending education reform proposals at the federal, state and local level.
- increase policymaker support for the National Board.

The Webinar is just the first part of the Advocacy Training. Here is the full plan:

about webinar Summer Advocacy Institute starts June 15

Register at
<http://tinyurl.com/33qapps>

This institute will train you to be an effective leader who will understand how to work with those who shape education policy locally, in your school district, in Wisconsin and at the national level. The emphasis will be on learning cutting edge techniques to influence education policy as it impacts the teaching profession.

Part I: Advocacy Training

First, the Summer Advocacy Institute is a multidimensional advocacy training program that is designed to give participants an advanced and intensive exposure to advocacy skills. It is comprised of six 60-minute webinar courses, each on a different aspect of advocacy skills.

Part II: Meetings on the Homefront

Throughout the month of August, NBCTs will schedule meetings with Members of Congress, state legislators, school boards, district superintendents and local educational leaders. These meetings will take place in the District/State offices of the legislators, where the real work takes place.

The goals of the meetings will be to

- raise awareness about National Board

Certification and its impact on effective teaching.

- provide expertise and perspectives of accomplished teachers on pending education reform proposals at the federal, state and local level.
- increase policymaker support for the National Board.

The Webinar Schedule:

The webinars will take place on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. CDT, beginning on June 15 and running through July 27.

June 15: How to be an effective advocate for National Board Certification

June 22: U.S. Congress - Impacting Federal Education Policy; ESEA Reauthorization

June 29: State Legislators - How to Raise Awareness Where it Counts Most

July 3: Go Local - Crafting the Message for School Boards and District Personnel

July 20: Make the Most of Every Meeting - Scheduling and other Logistical Details

July 27: Follow-up Strategies to Keep the Momentum Going

Even if you'll be out of town on any of these dates, you just need a computer and Internet access for an hour on these Tuesday evenings. Public libraries throughout the country, even in the smallest of towns, have computers for your use.

about us

Mission of the Wisconsin National Board Network

The mission of the Wisconsin National Board Network is to enhance student learning by:

- promoting National Board Certification
- supporting those seeking certification
- advocating for educational reforms
- encouraging continued professional development, including leadership development, for National Board Certified Teachers.



contact us

WNBPN Report

www.weac.org/wnbn • June 2010 • Vol. 4 No. 2

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

President: Deb Dosemagen, dosemagd@mtmary.edu

Send suggestions, comments, corrections, articles to the editor.

WNBPN's annual meeting is held in August.. Check the website for this year's meeting.

How to join, access NBCTLink

#1



At the NBPTS web page, click on the "For NBCTs" tab to drop down its menu. Select NBCTLink. Screen-shot #1 highlights where to click to login, even if you're new.

#2



Here you can login at the left. If you haven't registered for NBCTLink, click on the highlighted area so you can create or edit your profile and add an NBCTLink password.

#3



Once you login, you get to the NBCTLink member page. To access a specific group, start by clicking on the Groups file, highlighted and starred at left.

#4



Here on the Groups page, you can do a Keyword Search for Wisconsin (sample circled at screenshot #4 at left) or another group of interest.

#5



This example takes you to NBCT's Wisconsin National Board Network page where you can search documents, join discussions and review past postings.

NBCTLink provides professional networking by state, by certificate area, by area of interest

• by Linda Barrington

The NBPTS website now provides a social networking area, specifically for NBCTs who can benefit from communicating with one another across the country. It's called NBCTLink.

If you are interested in connecting with others certified in your area, you can find a group area just for NBCTs that certified in that specialty.

If you are interested in connecting with others in a particular region, specifically a particular state, you can find a group area for individual states.

If you are interested in an education topic, like NCLB, you can find a group area where NBCTs discuss their ideas and concerns.

When a new group of NBCTs get certified each December, they receive an email inviting them to join NBCTLink. That's when we should have a posting there to let them know about the Wisconsin National Board Network and to let them know there will be pinning parties around the state in coming months.

So even though this is a national networking site that any of us can use as individuals, it also has benefits for WNB as an organization.

- It give us national visibility at the NBPTS website.
- It allows us to post our newsletters and other information for state affiliates to use as models (or inspiration).
- It provides us with a national forum to post position statements or requests.
- It creates an initial contact point for WNB to let new Wisconsin NBCTs know about our organization.

After reading the article on p. 2 about the WNB group site and then the article on p. 3 about the new WNB website and now this article about NBCTLink, you may be scratching your head: So many sites!! How and when do I use these? What's the difference???

WNB website: This one is a must for all Wisconsin NBCTs to check resources pertinent to Wisconsin workshops, to check schedules for workshops, meetings, pinning parties, etc. on the calendar. [This is where you will find information.](#)

WNB groupsite: This one is particularly well suited for discussions. We are scattered all over the state and sometimes need to ask for information, get ideas, share resources and updates, etc. [This is where you will be able to network with Wisconsin NBCTs.](#)

NBCTLink: This one is useful when you are looking for broader input and discussion than just within the state. You can find discussion groups tailored to particular interests. [This is where you will be able to network with all NBCTs.](#) (See other benefits bulleted above.)