



Highlights of Upcoming Events!

National Board Certification: The process of extraordinary personal growth.

February 21 through April 4, 2009
National Board Pre-candidacy Class Online

February 26, 27, 28 and March 14, 2009
Technology Integration: Audio Podcasting for Teachers & Students

March 30, April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2009
Technology Integration: Digital Storytelling

March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12
National Board Pre-candidacy Class

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: Technology Integration: Audio Podcasting for Teachers & Students

Dates	February 26, 27, 28 and March 14, 2009
Location	Arizona Education Association 345 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix
Times	February 26 and 27 (4:30-8:00pm), February 28 and March 14 (10-3:00pm)
Cost	\$175
Deadline	2/6/2009
Notes	Price includes training, materials, and light dinner.

Explore the possibilities of podcasting. Podcasts are sound files that can be posted online and automatically downloaded to iTunes, MP3 players, iPods, or whatever can play an MP3. Led by Tony Vincent, participants receive an introduction to educational podcasts and learn to make their own audio files during the first three consecutive sessions. Useful strategies and resources for preparing, speaking, recording, and editing are shared. After a two week break for planning, recording, and editing, the class reconvenes to publish the first episodes online. Besides having their podcasts published on the Web, participants will leave with dozens of curriculum integration ideas and loads of classroom management advice.



In 2008, 100 Arizona teachers achieved National Board Certification, the highest symbol of professional teaching excellence. At the Arizona K-12 Center, we take special pride in this accomplishment, as we work with our partners to support candidates through pre-candidacy classes, coaching and on-going support.

“We are very excited to have 100 newly recognized National Board Certified Teachers in Arizona, including the first from Window Rock and Somerton,” says Kathy Wiebke, Executive Director of the Arizona K-12 Center. “Our mission is to offer quality professional development to teachers statewide and no other single opportunity offers teachers the rigor and results of National Board Certification.”

The Center is particularly pleased to recognize those teachers who did not achieve in their first year, but continued with the process and completed it in subsequent years. Some teachers achieve National Board Certification in their first year and others take two or three years. Perseverance is a trait of all leaders and a quality that commands respect.

Many know that National Board Certification represents an extremely high level of recognition. What teachers often don't realize is the experience of personal growth that accompanies the process. We visited with several teachers who achieved National Board Certification this year to hear how they have been impacted.

READY TO TAKE RISKS

For Cheryl Redfield, who teaches eighth grade English in the Gilbert Unified School District, the impact of National Board Certification began from the very first pre-candidacy class.

“The purpose of the class was to make sure you really wanted to do it,” she says, “just from those initial questions I began to question my pedagogy.”

Now that she has completed the entire process, she has become much more willing to take risks to enhance her practice. Perhaps the biggest of these is her turning to technology in the classroom.

“I felt like I knew my students well, but I realized one area I didn't address is their tech savvy. I was always encouraging students to get out of their comfort zones,” she says, “now I had to step out of mine. To not know something in front of my students was something I really had to get over.”

Redfield has implemented web pages, podcasting for book reports and PowerPoint presentations into her lesson plans. “I am a different teacher,” she observes, “I hope to continue and grow, but I am so much further along than I would have been otherwise.”



AWARENESS ON THE INCREASE

Annie Diaz, who teaches second grade in the Litchfield School District, has found that her responsiveness to the individuality of her students has sharpened considerably. This has helped her in planning academics as well as social interactions.

“It's all about who they are now, at this time,” she says, “that tells me what's going to work best for them.”

Litchfield School District has just one other National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) with whom Diaz had little contact. She's excited about helping to raise awareness among her colleagues about National Board. “Hopefully I can be there for other teachers at other schools,” she says. “It's a really unique experience.”

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Leslee Valencia, who teaches pre-kindergarten in the Sunnyside Unified School District, says: “I analyze more what I'm doing now. I ask: what are we trying to get out of this lesson?” Valencia also finds she is using more open-ended questions. This makes her classes less teacher-directed and more guided by the curiosity of her students.

A retake candidate, Valencia, who is in her tenth year of teaching, had to do some real soul searching about carrying on with the certification process.

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National Board Certification: The process of extraordinary personal growth.

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"I really had to reevaluate if I wanted to continue," she said. "It made me question my teaching in general." Now her advice to others in the same position is unequivocal: "Definitely keep going. The second time around you internalize things differently, you see different things."

PROACTIVE IN THE FACE OF PROBLEMS

For Beth Maloney, who teaches third grade in Dysart Unified School District, her Certification has helped fortify her in a time of crisis. The real estate market collapse has caused a major upheaval in her school's student population. Three years ago, approximately 6% of students were on free and reduced lunch. Today that figure is in the 20's.

Many students arrive at school hungry, neglected and with extremely limited life experience. They may have no books in their homes; some even have no TVs. This radical transformation has left many teachers in shock as test scores plummet. Maloney is among the few actively seeking answers.

"National Board has made me a lot more proactive," Maloney says. "It broadens your mind and makes you think—how can I help every single child."

Maloney is part of a small cadre of teacher leaders who are working to alter the attitude among teachers feeling overwhelmed and dispirited. As she puts it: "We really need to pull together as a school."

In Maloney's class, reading levels now range from early first grade all the way to sixth grade.



Beth Maloney: National Board Certified Teacher

To reach all her students she has to work almost entirely in small group teaching.

"I was already on this path, but National Board speeded up the process," she says. "Now I have higher standards to live up to. I feel like no kid is going to fail in my class. I can't let a single kid slip through the cracks."

Clearly, when teachers grow, students benefit. That's the ultimate opportunity offered by National Board Certification.

Did You Know?

- The number of NBCTs nationally has more than doubled in the past five years (from more than 32,000 in 2003 to nearly 74,000 in 2008).

Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

- Approximately **46%** of all of Arizona's NBCTs work in Title I schools.

Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

- Sarah Baird (shown below) is the first NBCT in Arizona to be recognized as **Arizona's Teacher of the Year!**

Teacher Leaders Making a Difference: Sarah Baird



Sarah Baird
National Board Facilitator
Cognitive Coaching

A Math Coach in the Kyrene District, where she mentors teachers and works with students modeling lessons in class, Sarah received her National Board Certification in 2004 and has been working with

the Arizona K-12 Center ever since. Anything having to do with National Board, there's a good chance Sarah has a hand in it. Now she also teaches Cognitive Coaching for the Center.

"I'm a K-12 Center wannabee," she says. "It's so nice to work with like-minded people who really want to advance the profession, are willing to look inside and

ask themselves, what am I going to do to make this better, to raise teachers to the level where they belong."

For Sarah, winning the award has special significance given the obstacles she has overcome. Growing up, her parents divorced and because of a difficult custody arrangement, she ended up attending at least 15 different schools. At age twenty, with \$40 in her pocket, she enrolled at Northern Arizona University, worked a full-time job and earned her degree.

As a child in school I talked a lot. I was not the easiest kid in the classroom to teach," she says. "I can relate to the life our kids come from. I want to be a positive voice for kids who need an opportunity they may not otherwise get. The best in me comes out when I am around kids.

"I want to be a positive voice for kids who need an opportunity they may not otherwise get."

Congratulations!

New National Board Certified Teachers of 2008

Kari Abrham	MartaMaynard
Gregory Adam	Susan Mcausan
Alaina Adams	Jacqueline Marshall
DianaBaldwin	Jennifer Mullet
Katherine Beck	DianeMurphy
Jo Bell	Tamara Noel
Tiffany Blasdel*	Heather Obrien
Tammy Blonkenfeld	LauraPennington
Jessica Boland	Mary Phillips
Kimberly Buckner	Stephanie Polston
Jane Butler	Lisa Prillaman
Dedra Cannon	Margaret Purvis
Caroline Carlson	Robbie Ramirez
Andrew Chapman	Samantha Ray
JaimeCole	Jennifer Reagan
Patricia Collofello	Cheryl Redield
Jennifer Daley	Kathryn Riley
Annie Diaz	Linda Rodish
Sarah Easton	Suzann Sabin
Heather Eldridge	Julia Salce
Christine Erickson	LauraSample
Patricia Farley	Marguerite Samples
Sheryl Filliater	Beth Sanborn
Kathleen Foley	Donna Sheber
Nancy Foote	Sharon Shriver
Lori Frazier	Cary Simpson
Charlotte Galen	Kimberly Smith
LeslieGeorge	Lise Spangenthal
Deborah Gilling	Michael Spencer
Kelly Graham	Rachel Stafford
Stacey Greene	Kim Svob
Briana Gryzynger	LauraTanem
Tricia Guzzetta	Malissa Thibault
Margaret Hackett	Debra Thomas
Julie Hackmann	Marsha Thompson
Elizabeth Haims	Mary Trent
Jo Hanken	Sandra Trevino
Jill Hauenstein	Jill Tutor
Martin Havran	Leslee Valencia
Tracy Hendrix	Jennifer Valentine
Angela Hensley	Julie Vastine
Giselle Higuera	Wesley Wagner
Suzane Hofmann	Lisa Watkins
Virginia Koppel	Catherine Weise
Megan Kraatz	Valinda Wells
Jo Ann Lee	Burla Whitmarsh
Janet Liston	Mary Windorski
Debbie Loerakker	Carol Wolbert
Jennifer Maccoll	Stacie Wylie
Alicia Majercin	Tara Zichichi
Beth Maloney	

* Achieved certification in 2007

Go to azk12.org for more information.