



For Immediate Release

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University of Memphis Professor Joins Select Group to Bolster National Teaching Standards

Arlington, Va. – April 28, 2010. – John M. Johnston a Professor and Director of Assessment for the College of Education has been chosen by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to serve on a committee composed of a select group of educators from across the country to assure the National Board’s *Early Childhood/Generalist Standards* reflect the best practices and latest research in the field. He has also been asked to lead the committee’s work as a co-chair.

The 14-member committee, which includes eight National Board Certified Teachers, was chosen from a pool of approximately 500 applicants.

The work of the NBPTS Early Childhood/Generalist Standards Committee will result in standards for accomplished teaching that reflect the realities of young children and families across American in the 21st Century. They establish a high bar for accomplished early childhood teaching. These standards influence state and national policies that affect young children and teachers that teach them. As the U of M Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Johnston’s work will have direct impact on the advanced Master’s Degree program in Early Childhood, and open new opportunities for collaboration with local school systems.

“John is an expert in the field of education and has a track record of documented expertise in content knowledge and in the practice of teaching,” said Joan Auchter, chief program officer, NBPTS. “At a time when more emphasis is being placed on teacher effectiveness than ever before, I am pleased that the work of this committee will serve as the foundation for the assessment in the National Board Certification process in early childhood teaching.”

Today, there are nearly 15,000 teachers nationwide who have achieved National Board Certification as Early Childhood/Generalists. These outstanding educators are working every day to create opportunities for students to learn and succeed.

As part of the National Board’s ongoing mission to provide high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, the Early Childhood/Generalist Standards Committee will review and revise the current standards that are the basis for National Board Certification in the field. Practicing classroom teachers fill a majority of seats on standards committees while other members represent districts, states and higher education. Committees reflect the nation’s regional and ethnic diversity as well as the range of teaching contexts and professional views that exist about what constitutes accomplished teaching.

National Board Certification, for veteran teachers, is a 10-part performance assessment that includes video portfolios, analysis of classroom practice and evaluation of content knowledge. It is part of a growing education reform movement that is reshaping American education by developing, recognizing and retaining great teachers.

In a congressionally mandated report, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies confirmed that National Board Certified Teachers advance student achievement and learning, stay in the classroom longer, support new and struggling teachers and assume other school-based leadership roles. The NRC acknowledged that students taught by National Board Certified Teachers make higher gains on achievement tests than students taught by non-board-certified teachers.

National Board Certification is recognized as a model of pay-for-performance and is supported by teachers and administrators nationwide. Many states and local school districts provide salary incentives and cover the cost for teachers who pursue and achieve this advanced teaching credential.

Just last December, NBPTS released the names of America's outstanding teachers who were part of the latest class of National Board Certified Teachers. In 2009, nearly 8,900 teachers nationwide achieved National Board Certification, bringing the total number of teachers and school counselors certified by NBPTS to more than 82,000.

For more information about NBPTS and National Board Certification, visit www.nbpts.org.

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About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization. NBPTS advances the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for accomplished teaching; creating and administering National Board Certification, a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards; and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts. Today, more than 82,000 National Board Certified Teachers are making a positive difference in the lives of students across the nation.