CANDIDATE FEE SUBSIDY APPLICATION EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 15

Applications continue to be processed for the Illinois NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy that is currently available to 750 first-time Illinois candidates. The approved list of these candidates is continually increasing. For instructions and the fee subsidy application, go to the NBRC website.

NBCT Publishes Novel for Spanish Classrooms

Carrie Toth recently published her first book, La hija del Sastre. A fictional story that takes place in the 1930’s, La hija del Sastre is based on the historical timeline of the Spanish Civil War when Francisco Franco’s fascist regime took control of Spain. The book is written strategically and comprehensibly at a third-year level to help students easily pick-up advanced grammatical structures while reading the compelling and suspenseful story. Toth has been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2006 and has been teaching high school Spanish since 1993. She holds a masters degree in Spanish Education and has done extensive study on the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. In addition to being the principal author of La hija del Sastre, Toth has written numerous cultural units based on Understanding by Design (UBD). She uses her knowledge of culture and history to create stories that are both inspiring and educational.

"I feel that the National Board process was the single most important piece of professional development that I have ever done. Through the studying I did for the assessment centers, I discovered TPR Storytelling, which changed my entire classroom environment. Through TPRS I have become a local, state and national presenter, and have had the opportunity to co-author this book. In my opinion, stipend or no stipend, the National Board process is more worthwhile and valuable than anything else teachers can do." Link to Toth’s blog here.
Teachers in Champaign, IL Embark on the Take One! Process

As quoted by Franklin Middle School’s Principal, Robert Shoda, “Franklin Middle School’s Take One! professional development experience has been exceptional. It has been the most significant professional development our building has engaged in during my eight years at Franklin.

The process of becoming a Take One! school was not easy. Initially there was hesitation, uncertainty and lack of commitment by staff. However, due to full administrative support, three enthusiastic NBCT facilitators and knowing there was a state system of support behind this effort, we pushed forward. In the end we had three full candidates, twenty-six Take One! submissions and two deferrals out of fifty-two professional staff. Additionally we now have six teachers considering taking their Take One! experience to the next level – full candidacy. The most significant turning point was when a teacher asked, “Why should we do this?” After much discussion about examining one’s teaching practice in order to improve student learning, engaging in professional development that’s meaningful, personal and focused on the classroom, an NBCT finally said, “Why wouldn’t you want to do this?”

Take One! Supports Learning and Performance for Teacher Evaluations

Take One! is a unique offering from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. By linking student learning to effective instruction, it provides a standards-based approach for improving teaching practices. Participants show evidence of how they meet the NBPTS high standards of teaching in knowledge of their students, setting student learning goals, selecting appropriate instruction, evaluating student learning in light of the goals and instruction, and reflecting on the effectiveness of their teaching decisions to impact student learning. It allows teachers to prepare and submit one pre-selected video portfolio entry and a written commentary in which they describe, analyze and reflect on their performance and student learning. A teacher can later transfer the score if he or she chooses to pursue National Board candidacy.

Contact the NBRC to learn how you can start this program at your school.

District Incentives for NBCTs

The NBRC is updating the data on incentives being offered to candidates and NBCTs throughout Illinois. You can help with this endeavor by completing a six-question survey. Results will be shared in a future publication.

Supporting Candidates

*NBRC Podcasts for Candidates*
*Assessment Center Preparation*
Podcasts, scripts and handouts are available to support candidates ethically prepare for the Assessment Center.

Assessment Center Cohorts
Cohorts are located throughout the state to help prepare candidates for the Assessment Center.