

FEBRUARY 2011

TAKE NOTE!

⇒ **IT IS CRITICAL** for NBCTs to keep their personal information current. [Update Illinois NBCT's Information.](#)

⇒ **NBPTS CONFERENCE**
Registration is now open for the 2011 NBPTS Conference. It will be held July 28, 2011 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. [Info Here.](#) [Register by March 31, 2011 to receive a free NBCT t-shirt!](#)

⇒ **Recruitment** Persuade your peers! Represent NBPTS and help to encourage and convey the significance of certification.

⇒ **Power Point** for Illinois National Board Certification Awareness Building

⇒ **NBRC White Paper** provides resources for school-wide participation in the NBPTS *Take One!* experience. Building communities and improving student achievement, it includes research, "how to's", and narratives from four Illinois schools.

Chicago Support Providers

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PAY IT FORWARD

Many NBCTs have benefited from the mentoring services which have been offered through the Illinois Comprehensive Support System. Now is the time to pay it forward. Add your name to the list of

NBCT Volunteer Mentors.

Share Stories about NBCTs!

Know an NBCT making a difference? Email us at nbrc@illinoisstate.edu and your story may be included in a future newsletter. Be sure to include your contact information along with your submission.

CANDIDATE FEE SUBSIDY APPLICATION Opened on February 15th

Applications are steadily coming in for the Illinois NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy for 800 first-time Illinois candidates. Due to the recruitment efforts of the NBCTs, R.O.E.s, principals, and superintendents in Illinois, the **approved list** of these candidates is continually increasing. The fee subsidy application and instructions are available on the **NBRC website.**

NBPTS offers a variety of support for **Recruitment**, including an **Outreach Toolkit** providing you the resources to share with other educators and show them how they can become candidates for National Board Certification.

NBRC Podcasts for NBCT Coaches

Learn strategies to be an NBCT Reader Coach with **podcasts** and handouts that guide NBCTs in responding to candidate's draft entries. Podcast topics include; ethics, analyzing candidate knowledge and skills, strategies to utilize the questions rubrics, and standards to support candidates.

ISBE UPDATES: FY 2011 NBCT Stipend

Applications Received - If you submitted your application prior to March 31, 2011 but do not see your name on the list, or if the school district and school information is not accurate, contact Angela McDermott via e-mail at amcdemo@isbe.net. Please allow at least two weeks for updates to be made.

COAL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Third-grade teacher and Coal City's K-12 Language Arts chairperson, Ann Quinzio-Zafran, NBCT, partnered with Principal Travis Johnson and Bradley University's Dr. Jana Hunzicker and Dr. Cecile Arquette to begin building a consistent writing curriculum for students in



Ann Quinzio-Zafran, NBCT (second left back row), collaborates with colleagues to build a professional learning community.

Chicago Public Schools Educator Joins Select Group to Bolster National Teaching Standards—The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has chosen Mitchell Brookins, a Differentiated Instruction Specialist, to serve on a committee composed of a select group of educators from across the country assigned to assure that the National Board's Literacy: Reading-Language Arts Standards reflect the best practices and latest research in the field. Brookins is among nine NBCTs on the 12-member panel, chosen from a pool of approximately 500 applicants. Brookins states, "The work of this committee is imperative because it continues to promote the belief that educators must reflect practitioners whose craft yields student learning."

As part of the National Board's ongoing mission to provide high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should be knowledgeable and capable of, the Literacy: Reading-Language Arts Standard committee will review and revise the current standards that are the basis for NBCTs in the field. Practicing teachers fill a majority of seats on standards committees, while other members represent districts, states, and higher education.

Teachers volunteered to become a part of this research-based, professional development experience, which takes place within their classrooms throughout the year. Quinzio-Zafran offers ongoing support to teachers as they design customized classroom writing instruction focused on engaging students in the writing process, while preparing them to become successful writers. With her classroom serving as a model for establishing an effective writing environment, Quinzio-Zafran comments, "The NBPTS Core Propositions have been kept in mind during our planning and execution. One of our main goals has been to support teachers in being committed to the needs of their students. This experience has strengthened teachers' knowledge and delivery of quality instruction to their students."