

Director, Debra Kasperski, NBCT
 Co-Director, Dr. Lynn Gaddis, NBCT

TAKE NOTE!

- ⇒ **Opportunities for NBCTs**
 Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) -
[Become a TPA Scorer](#)
[Learn more about TPA](#)
- Provide [Candidate Support](#)**
- Become an [Assessor](#)**
- ⇒ **How to Apply for [NBPTS Programs](#)**
- ⇒ **Know [Your Regional Coordinator](#)**
- ⇒ **Nominate a Teacher**
 Invite a teacher to pursue National Board Certification. Send an electronic invitation by completing the online [nomination form](#)
- ⇒ **Stay Informed** keep your personal information current
[Update Illinois NBCT's Information](#)
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Share Stories About NBCTs!

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

2012 Window for the NBPTS Illinois Candidate Fee Subsidy will open on February 15th

GREAT NEWS! The [National Board Resource Center \(NBRC\)](#) at Illinois State University is excited to announce that the 2012 Window for the Illinois NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy is ready to open at 10:00a.m, Tuesday, February 15th. Funding for the \$2,000 Illinois NBPT Candidate Fee Subsidy is available for 500 **first time candidates** (teachers and counselors). With 5,153 Illinois NBCT's and the fund-

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

You are one of our most powerful recruiters for National Board Certification. We encourage you to share the impact of your experience with other teachers and counselors, your principal and the entire school community, because you can attest to the values of the process.

In order to support new candidates, we have the opportunity to build a strong community and continue the growth and impact of NBCTs in Illinois. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an Illinois NBCT, go to www.nbr.illinoisstate.edu/.

Important Updates from ISBE

Effective immediately! As of 8/26/2011, Section 21B-45 of *The Illinois School Code* states that all certificates not renewed or [registered](#) shall lapse after six months from the expiration date of the last year of registration. All certificates must be registered after the initial issuance. Please be advised that pursuant to PA97-0607, signed on August 26, 2011, educator certifications fees increased on January 1, 2012. All fees must be paid in their entirety. **You can now enter your professional development in ECS.** The functionality that used to be in CeRTS and CeRTS for Administrators

as been incorporated into ECS. It is extremely important that all NBCTs continue to check the [Educator Certification System \(ECS\)](#) to access and monitor your certification data. Contact your Regional Office of Education if you have questions.

MITCHELL20 SCREENING

The students of Urban Needs in Teacher Education (UNITE) and the College of Education at Illinois State University are pleased to sponsor a screening of a new documentary on **Monday, February 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center**. The event is free and open to the public. For more [information about the film](#), NBPTS nametags will be available at the entrance for all NBCTs attending the Mitchell20 screening.

[Click Here For Registration Request Mitchell20 screening](#)

***If you need a special accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Chandler Kaiden, College of Education, at 309.438.3271. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.**

Amy Brewer Receives Outstanding Science Teacher Award

The Illinois Science Teachers Association (ISTA) has announced the



Brewer working with a student

winners of the ISTA/ExxonMobil Outstanding Science Teacher Award in their January 23rd Newsletter.

Amy Brewer, NBCT and second grade teacher at Lincoln School in Mendota, IL was one of the five winners of the award. She was recognized at the annual Illinois Science Education Conference and presented with the actual award and a check for \$1000 during a Mendota

School Board of Education meeting. This award is intended to recognize "extraordinary accomplishment" in the field of science teaching. Applicants must provide evidence demonstrating achievement above-and-beyond normal classroom teaching, along with testimonials from fellow teachers, administrators and students.

[Applications](#) are now available for 2011-2012 ISTA Awards.

Illinois NBCT Requests Input in Revision of Science Standards

Scott Reed, an NBCT from Niles North High School, is working with NBPTS and nine other NBCTs from all across the country in an effort to revise and upgrade the current NBPTS Science Standards. Reed is collecting input from ALL teachers on how they best describe the characteristics and expectations of an accomplished teacher. "Ultimately, for the next ten years, this document will be one that future science educators use as they pursue National Board Certification," states Reed. "Our hope is that science teachers from multiple

perspectives can see themselves in it for many years to

"Ultimately, for the next ten years, this document will be one that future science teachers use as they pursue National Board Certification."

come." Please participate by going to [Science Standards Public Comment & Review](#) and filling out the survey. Responses to the Public Comment & Review will be accepted through midnight ET, February 5, 2012.

What is the Value of NBC?

By Lynn Gaddis

In reaction to the blog, many NBCTs responded to the changes in legislation by sharing their feelings—sadness, disappointment, frustration, outrage, and overall disheartenment. What strikes me is that most reactions focused on the disrespect of teachers or on the fact that losing the stipend is one more way in which NBCTs feel like their hard work, long hours, commitment to student learning, and effectiveness are not valued. Money talks. These NBCTs perceive that losing the stipend means that they are not valued by government leaders for their extraordinary effort and results to improve their teaching and their students' learning. A concern is that disrespecting NBCTs by losing the stipend may mean there will be fewer teachers who will want to participate in this rigorous professional development. In fact, as the stipend diminished, the NBRC has seen a trend over the past two years with more candidates coming from districts with NBPTS support programs. Only two NBCTs talked about how some districts pay an incentive or recognize ACE credit, college credit, district credit, or steps on salary schedules. In the past week, the NBRC heard from superintendents and NBCTs about putting stipends in contracts. It is sad and frustrating for many NBCTs who feel that their professional accomplishments are not valued by their districts and now the state. Read more of [Lynn's Blog](#).