**NBCTS CANDIDATE FEE SUBSIDY HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 15, 2011**

To date, over 890 applications have been approved for the Illinois NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy that is currently available to Illinois first-time candidates. The 2011-2012 spring window has been extended until June 15 or until a total of 933 applicants have been approved. Candidates will now be approved on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no waiting list. Once a candidate’s name appears on the approved list, they will need to pay a non-refundable fee of $500 online, within two weeks of the date their name was added to the approved list. The application will be accessible until the funds are depleted.

All eligible candidates who applied by the due date of May 15, 2011 have been APPROVED. Candidates on the waiting list have been moved to the approved list. Click for more information.

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**Great Teachers — Great Leaders!**

Experienced Illinois principals are encouraged to participate in a great professional-growth opportunity currently being offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) — free of charge! As part of the development of National Board Certification for Principals, NBPTS is conducting a second round of national field testing beginning September 2011. A representative sample of Illinois principals will be part of the field testing that covers program components of NBPTS spanning an 18-month period. Participants may attain NBPTS certification following completion of the pilot. Interested principals should visit www.nbptsprincipals.org for further information. The recruitment period ends on May 31, 2011.

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**NBCTs Making A Difference**

**2008 NBCT, Lucy Weck** — was recognized late last month by President Obama as a recipient of the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is given annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. Winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators, following an initial selection process done at the state level. Weck, along with other winning educators, will receive their awards in Washington, D.C. later this year. “The teachers we honor today have demonstrated uncommon skill and devotion in the classroom, nurturing the young minds of tomorrow’s science and math leaders,” said President Obama.

“America’s competitiveness rests on the excellence of our citizens in technical fields, and we owe these teachers a debt of gratitude for strengthening America’s prosperity.” Read more...

**2006 NBCT, Carrie Toth** — was recently honored at the Kaskaskia Region Association’s 15th Annual Member Awards Banquet held in Hillsboro, IL. The banquet is held each year to recognize those making strides in the field of education. Toth, a teacher at Carlyle High School, received the Horace Mann IPA Innovative Education Award for her use of the input based method Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) as a technique to teach her high-school Spanish classes. Utilizing authentic materials like music and movies, Toth incorporates the use of the language rather than through the rules-based method used in many textbooks. Toth was nominated by the principal of Carlyle High School, Joe Wilkerson, who commented, “Carrie is one of the most dynamic teachers I have been associated with in my 26 years in education. Her love of Spanish is only surpassed by her love for our students.”