



NJDOE News

Contact: Richard Vespucci
For Release: April 5, 2000

Nine Teachers Honored for Achieving National Teaching Certification

The New Jersey Board of Education today honored nine teachers who successfully completed requirements for national teaching certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Commissioner of Education David Hespe presented the nine teachers to the board for recognition and commendation.

"These teachers have achieved distinction in their profession by meeting rigorous standards of performance," Commissioner Hespe said. "I applaud their efforts and commend their initiative in pursuing and fulfilling the national process. I know that they and their students have benefited from this experience."

The nine New Jersey teachers honored and their areas of national certification are:

- Jill Berlet, a third grade teacher in the Clinton Township Schools, middle childhood generalist
- Julia Delahunty, an eighth grade teacher in the Edison Township Schools, early adolescence / English language arts
- Joann Demetrio, kindergarten teacher in the Milltown Public Schools, early childhood generalist
- Carol Joyce, a ninth and twelfth grade history teacher in the Princeton Regional Schools, adolescence / young adulthood history-social studies
- Jaymie Reeber Kosa, an eighth grade teacher in the Plainsboro Township Schools, early adolescence / English language arts
- Victoria Siroy, a tenth and eleventh grade teacher in the Newark Public Schools, early adolescence mathematics
- Kimberly Turse, a fifth-grade teacher in the Clinton Township Schools, middle childhood generalist
- Betty Urbanik, a sixth grade a sixth grade teacher in the Newark Public Schools, early adolescence generalist
- Beverly Weber, a fifth grade teacher in the Hillsborough Township Schools, middle childhood generalist

Ellen Schechter, assistant commissioner for the Department of Education's Division of Academic and Career Standards, described the rigor of the national certification process, which includes additional hours of study, development of a comprehensive portfolio, and documentation of community involvement and professional growth.

Schechter commended the leaders of New Jersey's two candidate support site centers for their assistance to teacher candidates for national certification. The leaders of the support centers are Willa Spicer, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction at the South Brunswick Public Schools, and Wayne Turner, director of staff development of Newark Public Schools.

New Jersey now has 26 teachers who have achieved national board certification. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was created as a nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit organization. Its mission is to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards, and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.