

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
September 12-13, 2013

OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI TEACHER CENTER

15. Approval to award discretionary grants to support National Board Certification career paths

Purpose: The grants will focus on creating career paths for teachers that build toward National Board Certification enabling them to support other teachers. These grants will be awarded for a period of three years to the five World Class Teacher Program sites.

Scope of Grant:

- Grant Period: September 14, 2013 – June 30, 2016

- Award Amount:
 - \$150,000 (Year 1)
 - \$100,000 (Year 2)
 - \$ 50,000 (Year 3)
 - \$300,000

- Method of Award: Discretionary

Funding Source: The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

WORLD CLASS TEACHER PROGRAM AWARDS

Grantee	FY 2014 Year 1	FY 2015 Year 2	FY 2016 Year 3	Total Grant Award
Delta State University	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 60,000
Jackson State University	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 60,000
Mississippi State University	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 60,000
The University of Mississippi	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 60,000
The University of Southern Mississippi	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$10,000	\$ 60,000
Grand Total	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$300,000

Note: The Mississippi Department of Education reserves the right to negotiate grant award amounts dependent upon the availability of funds. Grant awards will not exceed the amounts indicated in the table.

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**National Board and Mississippi Partner to Boost Access to Accomplished Teachers
Grant from the Gates Foundation Will Help More Mississippi Teachers Pursue National
Board Certification**

ARLINGTON, Va. —August 9, 2013—The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has received a \$3.74 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate its effort to ensure that every student in America is taught by an accomplished teacher with the proven skills to advance students' learning and achievement. To meet this ambitious goal, the National Board is examining ways to redesign National Board Certification—the profession's measurement of accomplished teaching—to make it accessible to more teachers and to reflect current research on best practices in teaching. The grant will also fund work in select states and districts, starting with Mississippi and Kentucky, to build a sustainable system of support for teachers to pursue and achieve National Board Certification as a direct means to improving instruction.

"To close the achievement gap and improve education for all students, we must ensure that every teacher in America is on a path to becoming an accomplished educator," said Ronald Thorpe, president and CEO of the National Board. "This is the moment to recognize teaching as a true profession as it deserves to be. Just as Board certification is the norm in professions such as medicine, it must become the expectation that we have of ourselves as teachers. And every step a teacher takes from pre-service to accomplished practitioner must be designed to achieve that goal."

Research has shown that National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have a significant impact on student achievement and that their students outperform their peers in other classrooms. A 2012 study by Harvard University's Strategic Data Project found that students of NBCTs in the Los Angeles Unified School District gained roughly the equivalent of two extra months of instruction in math and one month in English Language Arts.

Over the course of the three-year grant, the project will grow to encompass a total of six states and four school districts. It will focus on creating career paths for teachers that build toward Board certification and enable Board-certified teachers to support other teachers. Across these systems, the National Board will work with a broad coalition of partners—including state education departments, district leaders, teachers unions, universities, policy makers and networks of NBCTs. Mississippi and Kentucky were chosen in part for their exemplary systems

of support for teachers pursuing National Board Certification, which are promising models for the nation.

In Mississippi, which currently has 3,420 NBCTs, the state funds the World Class Teaching Program (WCTP) at university campuses to recruit and support teachers through the Board certification process.

"From piloting teacher merit pay programs to increasing teaching program entry standards and creating scholarships for students wishing to enter the teaching profession, Mississippi is taking strong steps in the right direction," said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant. "This grant will help us support more teachers in pursuing accomplished standards, providing more students with the chance to learn and grow."

Nationwide, more than 102,000 teachers have achieved National Board Certification, demonstrating that they have met the profession's highest standards for accomplished practice through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process. National Board Certification is available in 25 certificate areas, from Pre-K through 12th grade.

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About the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (www.nbpts.org):

The mission of the National Board is to advance student learning and achievement by establishing the definitive standards and systems for certifying accomplished educators, providing programs and advocating policies that support excellence in teaching and leading, and engaging National Board Certified Teachers and leaders in that process.

Transforming the Teaching Profession in Mississippi
Description of National Board Project

Overview

The World Class Teaching Project (WCTP) has received a grant from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to work with pre-service and early-career teachers in Mississippi to help engage them in transforming the profession. This grant was made possible by a grant from the Gants Foundation. The WCTP sites— located at University of Mississippi, Jackson State, Mississippi State, Delta State, and Southern Mississippi— will receive a total of \$300,000. The project will begin in the fall of 2013 and continue through June of 2016.

Pre-service teachers

At the five WCTP sites, NBCTs will be meeting with pre-service teachers to help them become familiar with the Five Core Propositions of accomplished teaching and the standards that are the basis for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). Pre-service teachers will also view and discuss cases from the National Board's ATLAS video library, which showcases accomplished teachers at work in the classroom. The NBCTs in the program will be acting as ambassadors for the profession and will be a valuable resource for the students as they continue to develop their knowledge and skills as teachers.

Early-career teachers

The WCTP will also be working with early-career teachers (years 1, 2, and 3) to hone their classroom skills so that they will be on track to achieve National Board Certification. NBCTs will be trained to work as mentors to these early-career teachers. The new teachers and local NBCTs from their community will meet twice each month at 10 sites around the state. The teachers will also be able to participate in discussions based on ATLAS cases and will be invited to create their own videos for discussion.

What do teachers gain from participating?

Through their participation, new and pre-service teachers will elevate their practice and learn how to improve outcomes for students, while participating in an initiative that will shape work with teachers across the country. They will also be joining a growing community of educators engaged with the National Board to transform the profession. The grant will also help to bring the participants together in an annual summit which will build and strengthen relationships between Mississippi's NBCTs and new and aspiring teachers throughout the state.