

More Coloradans earn national teaching distinction

Mitchell 20, a much-watched documentary, tells the story of 20 teachers in one high poverty Arizona school as they earn their certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Their story demonstrates how National Board Certification is good for teachers, good for their students, and good for their school community. (Mitchell20.com)

Colorado has about 650 teachers who hold National Board Certification and have earned the distinction of "NBCTs." This winter, 93 more Colorado teachers achieved their certification. They joined the nation's 97,291 NBCTs, 6,200 of whom earned certification this year.

These accomplished teachers comprise three percent of the entire teaching force in the U.S. More than half of them teach in high-need schools, and 15 percent are certified in areas related to science, math, technology, and engineering.

National Board Certification is not an easy thing to do, but those who earn certification consider it well worth the

time and money they invested. Licensed teachers or school counselors with at least three years experience are eligible to become NBCTs. You may want to join with other educators to embark on the steps to certification and talk to NBCTs in your school or district who may be willing to help you understand the process and serve as mentors.

Explore the requirements and application steps for the 2012-13 assessment cycle at nbpts.org. Colorado provides financial assistance (cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/NBCT.htm) and some school districts offer support and incentives (nbpts.org/resources/state_local_information/CO).

If you are not certain about pursuing national certification, consider starting with Take One, a standards-based approach to improving one's teaching practice. Teachers prepare and submit one video portfolio entry and may count it later toward full certification. Find out more at nbpts.org. ■

Congratulations to these CEA members who earned their national certification in December:

Boulder Valley EA: Patricia Arnow, Jennifer Blevins, Barbara Bogner, James Brittenham, John Costello, Julia Halaby, Karen Hannahoe, Lori Hattendorf, Alysia Hayas, Elena Hershey, Darla Humphrey, Lynn Jackson, Caitlin Kline, Kate Lunz, Mary McDaniel, Karen Mackie, Cara Mentzel, Sarah Shipley, Andrea Kinzey-Wheeler

Cherry Creek EA: Kristoffer Barikmo, Virginia Decesare, Kimberly Freed, Melissa Myers, Paige Gaynor-Schmidt, Benwari Singh, Teri Smith

Colorado Springs EA: Alayna Gee, Beverly Foster, Cecilia Horne, Erin Beth Ponsor, Carol Champan-Stanley, Jessica Trovik

Denver Classroom TA: Janette Barela, Susan Curtis, Elizabeth Fant, Kathleen McKune-Garza, Lynne Marie Valencia-Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Susan Marion, Debra Rosenbaum, Jean Smith, Tara Thompson, Margaret Torres, Holly Douglas-Tran, Jessica Wainman, Andrea Wiseman

District Twelve EA: Robert Armagost, Jennifer Cooper

Fountain-Ft. Carson EA: Tonya McLachlan

Greeley EA: Heather Waters

Jefferson County EA: Andrea Gilmore, Dena Goldberg, Kenneth Kelsey, Cheryl Manning, Stephen Soich

Littleton EA: Lisa Jenkins

Mesa Valley EA: Lisa Crabtree

Telluride EA: Jennifer Morgan, Heather Rosen

Westminster EA: Stephanie Gronholz