



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2009

CONTACT: Monique LeNoir
Director of Communications
Phone: (202) 293-8620

**Washington Teachers' Union,
In Partnership with American Federation of Teachers,
Celebrates National Board Certified Teachers**

WASHINGTON—The Washington Teachers' Union, in partnership with the American Federation of Teachers, today celebrated the achievement of WTU members who recently became National Board Certified Teachers.

“We are very proud of our teachers who have gone above and beyond to advance their teaching skills for the benefit of their students,” said WTU President George Parker.

National Board Certification is a widely respected model of pay-for-performance, and is supported by teachers and administrators nationwide. More than two-thirds of states provide salary incentives and cover the cost for teachers who pursue this advanced credential.

The number of National Board Certified Teachers in the District of Columbia Public Schools in 2007-08 increased significantly—about 200 percent. The WTU and the AFT, in conjunction with key educational stakeholders including the DC Education Compact, DCPS and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, have recognized these teachers for their commitment to their students and their profession.

“The AFT has been a supporter of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards since its inception. The National Board certification process is like the Olympics of our profession—it is rigorous and challenging, and every educator who completes it deserves to be rewarded both professionally and financially, a notion shared by many states and school districts across the country,” said AFT President Randi Weingarten. “Equally important, National Board Certified Teachers are great teachers who directly help kids every day in our classrooms. The number of D.C. teachers who have gone through this process is a testament to their commitment to children and their profession.”

(MORE)

“As difficult as it was, becoming a National Board Certified Teacher forced me to critically examine my role as a teacher,” said Courtney Daignault, an early childhood educator at Miner Elementary School. “Overall, it made me look at my pedagogy, how I interact in the classroom and my relationships with my students. This experience made me realize that I need to continue to incorporate new skills in working with my children and in teaching as whole.”

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization. NBPTS advances the quality of teaching and learning by developing professional standards for excellent teaching, creating a voluntary system to certify teachers who meet those standards, and integrating certified teachers into educational reform efforts. Today, nearly 74,000 National Board Certified Teachers are making a positive difference in the lives of students across the nation.

#