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**6,200 TEACHERS EARN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION:  
TOTAL NEARS 100,000**

*Recognized Today at White House Event*

WASHINGTON -- National Board Certification - the "gold standard" for teaching excellence - was celebrated today at a White House event heralding the newest class of 6,200 board certified teachers, which brings to nearly 100,000 the total number of board certified teachers in the U.S.

"National board certification is synonymous with great teaching. While our nation is focused on the need for the highest quality teachers, board certification truly is the gold standard," said Ronald Thorpe, president and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Director Melody Barnes welcomed a group of the newly certified teachers today to the White House with remarks focused on how the National Board process can lead to improved instruction and enhanced leadership in the profession.

Their remarks were followed by comments from three new board certified teachers:

- Robert Barnes, an exceptional needs specialist from Alabaster, Ala.
- Jacquelyn Sticca, an early childhood generalist from Chicago.
- Sunila Varghese, a science/early adolescence teacher from Gaithersburg, Md.

In addition, Michelle Kellman, a student of Ms. Varghese, spoke first-hand about the strengths of her teaching.

Former West Virginia Governor Bob Wise, who chairs the NBPTS, said, "These highly qualified teachers are true 'nation builders' and are positioned to lead the ground-up movement necessary to help students reach their full potential."

Today's event also paid tribute to the 25th anniversary of the Board, which is now underway.

Thorpe referred to two recent studies showing that more than half (55 percent) of all board certified teachers work in high-need schools (according to the National Center for Education Statistics) and to a National Research Council report that found students who were taught by board certified teachers show higher gains on achievement tests than those taught by other teachers.

Another four board certified teachers were showcased at today's event by participating in a panel with Secretary Duncan and 2011 Teaching Ambassador Fellow Geneviève DeBose, a recently certified teacher from New York City. On the panel were Laura Kretschmar of Oakland, CA, James Liou of Boston, Mark Bolt of Herndon, VA, and Daniel Brown of Washington, DC.

Following this morning's event, the Department of Education hosted a lunch and roundtable discussion with board certified teachers.

NBPTS is recognized as the source for the highest standards and practices that lead to improved teaching, leading and learning. A voluntary assessment program designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers, and to embed ongoing school improvement in schools nationwide, National Board Certification is achieved through performance-based assessment and testing that takes one to three years to complete.

While state teacher credentialing programs set the basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified Teachers must demonstrate advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Completion of the NBPTS certification process signifies that teachers have developed and demonstrated the skills required of an accomplished education professional. By completing the certification renewal process, these accomplished teachers show that they continue to meet the nation's highest teaching standards.

NBPTS is also impacting education nationwide through additional professional development programs for school leaders, research and development on education policy and practices, and through strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations that also support ongoing improvement in America's schools.

For more information on NBPTS and state-by-state data related to the 2011 class of National Board Certified Teachers, please visit [www.nbpts.org/2011NBCTs](http://www.nbpts.org/2011NBCTs).

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## **About NBPTS**

*NBPTS is the definitive source of the highest standards and best practices for accomplished teaching, leading and learning. For a quarter century, we've set the bar for what it means to be a great teacher, and have provided the standards and framework needed to achieve that mark of distinction: the National Board Certified Teacher. Our reinvigorated mission includes an array of programs, including our principal certification currently being piloted nationwide, to support continuous school improvement. At a time when the nation's emphasis on educational improvement is at an all-time high, NBPTS is uniquely positioned to play a broad role in the transformation of America's schools.*