



December 2015

Greetings!

Happy Holidays! Isn't it great when hard work really pays off? If you have the letters "NBCT" after your name, you know the answer! There is much to celebrate this time of year and here at the National Board, we start with the recent [announcement](#) of our new Board Chair, Terry Holiday, Ph.D., who steps in as we congratulate the 4,729 teachers who achieved or renewed National Board Certification this year. We have other milestones to celebrate so read on to learn more.

Building the Continuum

A New Era of Education Begins

On December 10, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the first time in 13 years and replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

ESSA leaves ultimate responsibility for improving teacher quality to states and districts. Jurisdictions must determine the evidence-based approaches with the strongest likelihood of success for doing so. The law encourages states and districts to provide support for critical components of building a continuum of teaching excellence, including residency and induction programs, support through professional learning and growth systems and leadership opportunities. ESSA provides an opportunity for National Board and NBCTs to play a role, ensuring that states and districts implement a comprehensive approach to developing a strong teaching workforce, grounded in a coherent professional continuum.

Read National Board's [statement](#) on ESSA.

What does this change mean for teachers? Read stories from Education Week [here](#) and [here](#).

We will continue to update you on ways to work with your states and districts in the coming months!

Spreading Your Expertise

Visionary Leader and Educator is New Board Chair

This month we welcomed Terry Holliday, Ph.D., as Chairman of our Board of Directors. Dr. Holliday is a teacher leader who has served in a multitude of roles in the education arena. Most recently, he served as Kentucky's Commissioner of Education, where he introduced innovative programs, led high student performance and brought national recognition to the state for its education improvement efforts. We look forward to his visionary leadership.

[Learn more.](#)



Are you #teamNBCT?

More than 112,000 teachers across the country have achieved National Board Certification, and the number is growing! Over 10,000 teachers are already engaged in the process to become Board-certified in 2017. This month we're celebrating these NBCTs and candidates using the hashtag, [#teamNBCT](#). Engage with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) throughout the rest of December, share your stories by emailing us at opportunities@nbpts.org, and tell us why you're #teamNBCT by filling out [this whiteboard](#).

Working Together to Advance Teacher Leadership

Last week, 80 of 109 supporter organizations came together in DC to inform where [Teach to Lead](#) is headed in 2016. So far, Teach to Lead has seen five regional summits, nine local leadership labs and over 570 teachers from 46 states across the country working to advance their leadership projects in states and districts. It's all about putting change into the hands of our nation's experts -- the teachers. In 2016, Teach to Lead is coming to Baltimore, Minneapolis, Long Beach, and New Orleans. [Stay tuned](#) for ways to get involved.

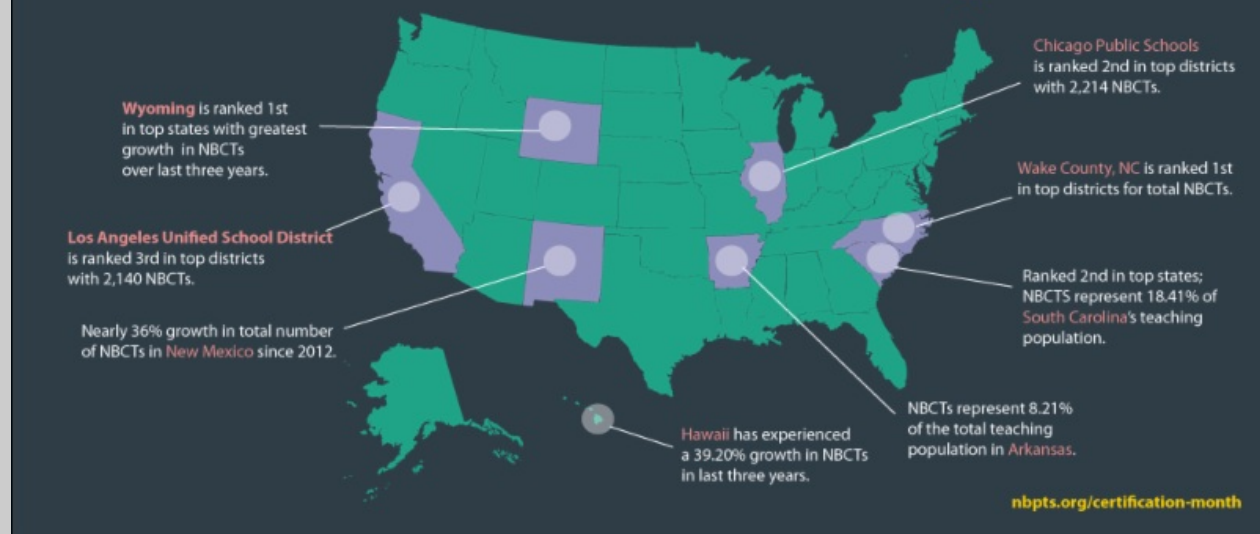
Don't miss out on these opportunities:

- Apply for the [2015 LRNG Innovators Challenge](#). Deadline: January 13.
- Apply to serve on the [Educators Rising Standards Committee](#). Deadline: January 6.
- Register now and save your spot for [Teaching & Learning 2016](#), March 11-12, with pre-conference on March 10 in Washington, DC.

#teamNBCT Across the Country

How is your state or district doing in terms of total number of NBCTs and growth? Find out these stats and more on the [National Board website](#).

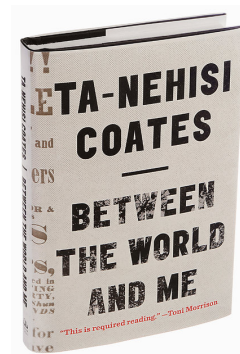
Where are we #NBCTstrong?



What We're Reading

Top Books of 2015

Looking for something to read over your well-deserved winter break? Check out this [list from New York Times](#) of top books from 2015. Many thought-provoking reads came out this year, including "Between the World and Me" By Ta-Nehisi Coates, a reflection on race issues in America today. Whether you're teaching these books to your students or starting up a [book club](#) with colleagues in the new year, share with us what you're reading using the hashtag, #NBCTreads!



In the Blogosphere

- [The Game Plan](#) by Daniela Robles, NBCT
The Standard
- [I Have Failed and I'm Proud of it!](#) by Michael Dunlea, NBCT
Second Thoughts blog
- [Developing Learning Cards for Primary Students](#) by Bill Ferriter, NBCT
Center for Teaching Quality blog
- [Nobody Puts Teacher Leadership in a Corner](#) by Alaina Adams, NBCT
AZ Stories from School blog

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