



The Boardroom

Back to School

September 2015

Greetings!

We hope the school year is off to a great start! Today's headline from the latest [PDK/Gallup poll](#) is that, by and large, Americans support professionalizing teaching by raising requirements and teacher pay, but they don't support tenure. What if we could change the conversation by making Board certification the expectation and the norm -- something the majority of Americans support? Imagine a public debate that spent more time reflecting deeply on student learning, finding new ways to support teachers in leading policy and keeping accomplished teachers in the classroom.

So gather your colleagues around some Pumpkin Spice Lattes, butternut squash soup, and apple cider donuts and dig into the conversation. Enjoy!

Building the Continuum

A new paradigm for the profession

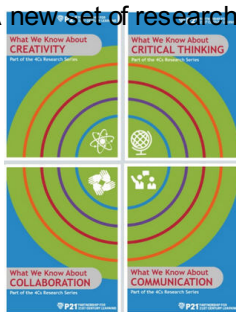
What does accountability look like in a post-NCLB world? NEA's 2015 report, [A New Vision for Student Success](#), represents a new paradigm for the association based on shared responsibility and continuous improvement. Ultimately, the profession must lead the way to better outcomes for all students, working together with parents, principals, school counselors and others.

One of NEA's key recommendations is to strengthen the professional growth continuum for teachers, a goal served by our joint [Teacher Leadership Initiative](#). Separately, a new policy snapshot on [teacher leadership](#) from the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders points to a number of promising models, spotlighting districts and states including Baltimore, Iowa, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Spreading Your Expertise

The #4Cs are essential for success, but how do you cultivate them in students?

A new set of research



briefs from the Partnership for 21st Century Learning sheds light on how to best implement and evaluate the 4Cs in the classroom: Creativity, Critical thinking, Collaboration and Communication. Thank you P21 for dedicating this series to Ron Thorpe. Read the full research [here](#) and check out [Ron's perspective](#) in the Critical Thinking brief.



All aboard the literacy express

Last week's International Literacy Day reminded us of the amazing work that's happening around the country to spread literacy in rural communities. Beebe School District in Arkansas is [blazing a reading trail](#) with their retired school bus turned bookmobile. The Beebe Badger Bookmobile joined the school meal program in various locations throughout the summer and will continue to operate at community events in the fall. Contact NBCT [Kay Calvert](#) to donate to this project.

In Mississippi, the National Board is working to [transform literacy through Board certification](#), along with the Miss. Department of Education and the World Class Teaching Program at six universities across the state. This year, four Intensive Summer Literacy Institutes were held in Jackson to provide at-risk K-3 students with additional learning and support in literacy and give teachers the opportunity to learn literacy instructional strategies from NBCTs. The results were astounding: 79% of the students who attended the institute passed the MKAS exam. Learn more and see the results [here](#).

Don't miss out on these opportunities:

- Apply for the [2016 Global Teacher Prize](#) (Deadline: October 10).
- Join #Educolor founder José Luis Vilson, and NBPTS board member and NBCT Renee Moore in a Twitter chat on race in education: Tuesday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m. ET, using the hashtag, [#NBchat](#).
- Get involved with Connected Educator Month. See the schedule of events [here](#).
- Looking for a job? The [National Board Career Center](#) features jobs at organizations across the country.
- Save the Date: [Teaching & Learning 2016](#) is happening March 11-12th in D.C. (pre-conference on March 10th.)

What We're Reading

Read. Reflect. React.

Earlier this month, TNTP published a new report, [The Mirage](#), that looked at the effectiveness of professional development in three school districts. For one take on this report, check out [Getting Beyond The Mirage of Professional Development](#) by Jane Coggshall of The Education Policy Center at AIR. What are your thoughts? Tweet [@nbpts](#) or email us at [opportunities@nbpts.org](#).

September's busy as it is -- we won't give you a heavy reading list.

Here are a few quick hits you might have missed. Something to discuss in the teachers' lounge or on Facebook.

- [Teaching in America: 'Only the Strong Will Survive'](#) by Rachel Martin
NPRed
- [Teachers Aren't Dumb](#) by Daniel T. Willingham
The New York Times

- [When We See Ourselves In Our Students](#) by Ray Salazar, NBCT
The Standard
- [Shifting Culture: Power and Value](#) by Mark Gardner, NBCT
The Standard
- [Great Teachers Are Not Built Overnight](#) by Vanessa Rodriguez
Medium's Bright Blog
- [A Tale of Two Katrinas](#) by Thomas J. Adams
Huffington Post blog
- [Three Back to School Resolutions for Teacher Leaders](#) by Jessica Cuthbertson, NBCT
Center for Teaching Quality

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