



Dr. Dolores Cormier

National Board Certified Teacher

How she “**Took the LEAP**”

Dr. Dolores Cormier-Zenon, NBCT, pursued Board-certification in early childhood education in 2002 because she wanted a concrete way to measure the impact she was actively making on her students’ lives. Beginning in 2018, as the President of the Louisiana National Board Certified Teacher Network (LA NBCT), she is expanding her leadership to address the challenges of teacher shortages and diversity by connecting and strengthening the impact of NBCTs.

Dolores sees the extra time she invests in the LA NBCT community – holding meetings, conducting candidate training, and facilitating National Board book studies – as enabling her to constantly analyze and reflect on her teaching style and simultaneously uplift and empower other teachers, resulting not only in stronger teacher networks but also increased student learning in her own classroom.

More recently, Dolores took her LEAP to community-building and advocacy by:

- Building out the LA NBCT Facebook group from three members to an engaged community of over 100 NBCTs across Louisiana and beyond
- Driving three NBCTs the three hour trip to and from Mississippi for the NBCT pinning ceremony, and a cross-state collaboration on efforts to ensure accomplished teachers for every student
- Leading outreach and engagement campaigns with local officials to advocate for greater teacher diversity by building financial supports for NBCTs, Mentors, and the ATLAS Video Library to support teacher professional development

These efforts have already resulted in government-issued stipends for Board Certified teachers from the district level, making it possible for more teachers to begin the Board certification process. Her leadership also resulted in the state Board of Education holding a recognition event for NBCTs and the Louisiana Governor proclaiming March 13th as “Louisiana NBCT Day.”

Through her demonstrated leadership, Dolores now serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) as well as on the group’s legislative committee. What’s next? Dolores is a founding member of the National Board Network for Accomplished Minority Educators (NBCT NAME)

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“As lifelong learners, teachers should constantly be seeking out ways to grow and improve. Being an active member of the NBCT community is an effective way to maintain the momentum needed to create real change.”

– Dr. Dolores Cormier-Zenon,
NBCT



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Are YOU ready to take the LEAP? Visit nbpts.org to become Board-Certified or become an NBCT advocate for YOUR students!