



FEATURED TEACHER AUTHOR

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Hello Teachers, Counselors, and Media Specialists!

Sara Meana here from the Tolleson Union High School Math Team. I have an exciting opportunity to share with you! If you're interested in improving your practice and getting recognized for your accomplished teaching, consider joining over 110,000 teachers nationwide who have earned **National Board Certification!** Developed by teachers, for teachers, standards for professionalism are based upon five core propositions:

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities.

Teachers at Tolleson Union High School District value the ideas of these propositions because this is already how we teach! Of course, we are committed to our students! Of course, we know our subject knowledge! Of course, we manage and monitor student achievement! Of course, we think systematically and learn from our experiences! And of course, we are members of learning communities!

To achieve National Board Certification, a teacher must show clear, consistent evidence of commitment to these propositions and the standards for his/her content area. There are four components to complete as evidence of your excellence. This can be a one year or multi-year process, depending on how quickly you want to complete components.

- Component 1 is a content test taken online at a testing center.
- Component 2 is a portfolio showcasing your ability to differentiate for your students.
- Component 3 showcases your classroom environment with a video component to demonstrate class culture and student interaction.

- Component 4 is a portfolio demonstrating that you are “an effective and reflective practitioner.”

This is not a free opportunity, but there are many scholarships available. The AZK12 Center’s mission is to provide quality professional development and one of their branches is specifically designed to support teachers through the process of National Board Certification. They provide scholarships and so much more. Also, other teachers have told me they received scholarships from the Arizona Education Association (AEA) and even support directly from their schools. Finally, TUHSD offers a stipend to Nationally Board Certified Teachers: \$1000/year for three years!

I am pursuing my certificate in Adolescence and Young Adulthood (AYA) Mathematics, but there are certificate areas for almost all subjects: Art, CTE, English as a New Language, ELA, Exceptional Needs Specialist, Health, Library Media, Music, Physical Education, School Counseling, Science, Social Studies-History, and World Languages. To be eligible, you must have spent 3 years in the classroom, have a college degree, and hold a current teaching certificate.

While I am not even close to finished with this journey, I have loved every step along the way. Every event I have attended related to National Board Certification has been very well run. The materials are well prepared and the event space has all necessary amenities to ensure a productive learning and working environment. (We always get AN HOUR for lunch and it’s always deliciously catered with hot food!!!) I feel energized when working with other National Board Candidates and National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). There is a positivity and excitement that comes from being around people driven to be excellent teachers!! Conversations are solutions-oriented and empowering as “the path” is uniquely yours. I have also noticed a specific improvement in my teaching practice, simply because I am intentionally thinking about how my work is aligning to the standards. This has been the best professional development experience I have ever had. And I’m still at the beginning!

I’ll leave you with a few links if you want more information:

- National website with overall information, LOTS of information - <http://boardcertifiedteachers.org/>
- Home of AZK12 Center with information specific to Arizona with other non-NBCT Professional Development events listed - www.azk12.org
- Carrie Deahl is a friend of a friend who got a bit more detailed with her experience because she has completed the National Board Certification process and is now a National Board Certified Teacher - <http://carriedeahl.typepad.com/the-real-deahl/2015/04/my-national-board-journey.html#more>

Or email me! I’d love to share more about the process and answer any questions you might have!

Excitedly,
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