

Title of Session: National Board Certification Support Group

Moderator: Gayle Britt

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Room: On Tap Café

GayleB: Hi Bryan, welcome to National Board Support Group discussion

BryanRM: Hi. Thanks

GayleB: Are you a candidate or thinking of becoming one?

BryanRM: I am working on my Masters of Education in secondary English right now. I am about 3/4 of the way through my program.

BryanRM: I hold a BS in Speech Communication and English Language and Literature right now.

GayleB: After I earned National Board certification I then went back and got a masters.

BryanRM: I am in the process of getting my licensure right now.

BryanRM: Sort of an all in one licensure/masters program through Mary Washington University.

GayleB: What is your subject area?

JeffC joined the room.

BryanRM: Secondary English.

GayleB: Hi Jeff, welcome to National Board discussion.

JeffC waves

GayleB: I received my National Board certification in social studies/history

BryanRM: I just passed my PRAXIS II test the other day. That was quite a relief to have that behind me.

GayleB: Yes, I can relate to that!

BryanRM: LOL...I was worried that I wouldn't pass.

GayleB: For National Board, in addition to the portfolio there is a subject matter test. I only teach world history so I really had to study to make sure I knew American as well.

BryanRM: I bet! That can be tough when you don't know what it is that you will be tested on.

GayleB: Since this is the first session this school year, it looks like it will be a small group today

BryanRM: I think you might be right.

GayleB: Shall we start with introductions. Where are you, what do you teach, and what is your interest in NB

BryanRM: Right now I am a sub in several high schools in Stafford, Virginia. I teach English language classes in 9-12th grades.

GayleB: My name is Gayle Britt. I teach 7th grade Language Arts/Social Studies mornings and I am associate director of curriculum and instruction at a charter high school in the afternoons.

BryanRM: I am curious as to what the national boards are and how one goes about being National Board Certified.

GayleB: I'm in San Carlos, CA. I received National Board certification in 2000.

GayleB: The web site is: www.nbpts.org

BryanRM: Thanks. I appreciate that. I will definitely check it out.

GayleB: Basically, national board certification is recognized in most states.

BryanRM: Is it similar to the PRAXIS tests that you take for your content area?

GayleB: In addition to having California teaching credentials I also have the National Board certification

GayleB: If I should move to another state that recognized NB certification then I would not have to get local certification.

GayleB: NB requires a portfolio and a subject matter exam.

BryanRM: That is great. That is something that I would like to have, the national recognition.

BryanRM: Ok, so it is more extensive than the PRAXIS, then.

GayleB: The portfolio is based on National teaching standards and provides evidence of meeting those standards.

BryanRM: That sounds like a reasonable thing to require.

GayleB: Yes, the portfolio probably took me 150-200 hours, but was the best staff development I have ever done.

BryanRM: That is great.

GayleB: Many start in September and their portfolios are due in March.

BryanRM: That is a fair amount of time to get it prepared.

BJ: Bryan, Gayle has started a group for NBC here in Tapped In to help provide support

GayleB: Yes, videos of teaching, and collections of student work are required.

BryanRM: Cool. I am trying to learn all the different ways to make my certification the most beneficial to me.

GayleB: Yes, I am a support provider with the group that meets at Stanford and I'm hoping my group will get online with me between meetings.

BrendaLW joined the room.

BJ: welcome, Brenda.

BrendaLW: Thanks

GayleB: We read each other's entries and give feedback, so online is perfect for that.

BryanRM: Yes, it makes a good format

GayleB: Welcome, Brenda. Please introduce yourself and tell us your interest in National Board.

BrendaLW: I am an ESE teacher just beginning NBC.

BrendaLW: I teach 7th grade.

BryanRM: Welcome Brenda. I am a beginning teacher who subs in high schools right now.

BrendaLW: Great! So are you going to go through NBC?

GayleB: Bryan, if you are interested you might want to sign up for the NB discussion group to see what it is all about.

BryanRM: Thanks. I appreciate you giving me the info.

BrendaLW: OK...thanks

BryanRM: Well, thank you for chatting with me. I appreciate the help.

GayleB: Be sure to visit the website at www.nbpts.org because that will really help clarify.

BryanRM: I definitely will. Thanks again.

GayleB: I will try to get at least one of the candidates at Stanford to join us next month.

GayleB: That will give another perspective.

GayleB: Thanks for your help today. Guess I'll sign off.

BJ nods. If you need someone to give your Stanford folks a tour...

BJ: let me know

GayleB: Ok. That would be great. My next meeting with them is Nov. 6

GayleB: Talk to you after that.

GayleB: Bye now.