

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Western Kansas Teachers Achieve National Board Certification



Sarah Wise

Teachers from USD 457 Garden City and USD 489 Hays are among the more than 3,800 teachers nationwide who in 2019 achieved the highest professional credentials they can earn – they attained first-time certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Sarah Wise, from USD 457, and Misty Lohmeyer and Lisa Renz, from USD 489, are now National Board Certified Teachers.

Wise teaches seventh grade English language arts at Kenneth Henderson Middle School in Garden City and earned her certification in early adolescence English language arts.

Lohmeyer is a Kindergarten teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School in Hays and earned her certification in early to middle childhood literacy: reading, English, language arts.

Renz teaches English at Hays High School and earned her certification in adolescence to young adulthood English, language arts.

National board certification is recognized nationwide as a model for identifying accomplished teaching practice. Teachers were notified in December if they achieved the certification.

“This process of board certification is similar to how a doctor becomes certified in a special area,” said Alvin Peters, director of Emporia State University’s program which assists teachers working toward national certification. “This is voluntary – no state, school district, or program is demanding them to go through this process and each teacher can take from one to three years to complete the process.”

Before certification, teachers must have a bachelor’s degree, a valid state teaching license and three years’ experience in the classroom.

Wise is one of three National Board Certified Teachers in USD 457 Garden City.

With the addition of Lohmeyer and Renz, USD 489 Hays now has 14 NBCTs.

The national board process is often misunderstood to mean a teacher passed a test or was nominated for the award. Peters adds, “National Board certification is a different kind of honor. Teachers must submit extensive documentation of their instruction, including videos of their students at work in the classroom.”



Misty Lohmeyer



Lisa Renz

The accomplishment of national board certification benefits the teachers, the schools they work in, and studies have shown NBCTs improve student learning. The program hosted at ESU, Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification, has a 78% initial certification rate over the past 14 years. This is nearly twice the national initial certification rate of 40%.

The national board standards were created by teachers. The standards represent a consensus for 25 certificate areas in 16 disciplines, including art, English, mathematics, science, world languages, school education and physical education, from pre-kindergarten through high school and six student development levels from early childhood through adolescence.

Kansas currently has a total of 467 national board certified teachers. To date, more than 125,000 teachers in all 50 states are NBCTs.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was launched in 1987. A decade of research shows board-certified teachers positively impact student learning. The goal is to create standards for high-quality teaching and to professionalize teaching through licensure, following the lead of fields like medicine, engineering, and architecture. More information about ESU's program can be found at www.emporia.edu/gpcntc.

###TEACH###

More information about Kansas and National Board Certification can be found at www.nbpts.org/in-your-state/in-your-state/ks/.