

Nine Knowles Fellows Achieve National Board Certification

Mathematics and Science Educators Earn Advanced Teaching Credential

Moorestown, N.J., January 23, 2018 – The Knowles Teacher Initiative today announced that nine of its Fellows achieved **National Board Certification**, an advanced teaching credential. The newly certified teachers are among the first group to certify under a redesigned assessment that was administered by the **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards** (NBPTS).

Built upon National Board Standards and the Five Core Propositions, National Board Certification involves completion of a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process. The certification process requires candidates to submit a portfolio that contains evidence of differentiation in instruction, student engagement, and their ability to act as an effective and reflective practitioner. Additionally, content knowledge must be demonstrated through completion of a computer-based assessment. To achieve certification, candidates must demonstrate a proven impact on student learning and achievement.

“The Knowles Teacher Initiative is committed to supporting teachers in their efforts to improve education for all students in the United States,” stated **Nicole Gillespie**, Knowles Executive Director. “Our mission and values are closely aligned with those of the NBPTS. As such, we believe that providing our Fellows with financial assistance and mentoring to achieve certification is a high-leverage investment in the teaching profession.”

The **Knowles Teaching Fellowship** is an intensive and cohesive, five-year program that supports early-career, high school mathematics and science teachers in their efforts to develop teaching expertise and lead from the classroom. Knowles Fellows are supported in their efforts to become Board-certified teachers. Specifically, Knowles Fellows are eligible for financial assistance and writing support, as well as participation in one-on-one and group meetings that are led by a National Board Certified Knowles Fellow. “I gained tremendous insight into my teaching practice as I prepared my portfolio for submission,” commented **Alison Espinosa**, the NBPTS-trained Candidate Support Provider who led the most recent Knowles support group. “I further strengthened my teaching practice as I provided support and guidance to other

teachers on their journey to achieving National Board Certification.”

The following Knowles Fellows achieved National Board Certification in December 2017:

Ben Buehler, Yorktown High School, Yorktown, Indiana

Victor Chen, Lee M. Thurston High School, Redford, Michigan

Brittany Franckowiak, Wilde Lake High School, Columbia, Maryland

Heather Hotchkiss, Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield, Virginia

Alex Lester, Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, Virginia

Laura Nutter, Bullis School, Potomac, Maryland

Tara Palomares, Sandia High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Cacia Steensen, Centaurus High School, Lafayette, Colorado

Jessica Watts, John Paul II High School, Plano, Texas

Nationwide, more than 118,000 teachers have achieved National Board Certification, including 35 Knowles Fellows.