

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Teacher, Julie Gard

West High School, (209) 830-3370

West High Teacher Becomes National Board Certified

(TRACY, Calif.) — West High School Teacher, Julie Gard has become a National Board Certified Teacher.

Julie earned her Bachelor's Degree in English and her Teaching Credential from CSU Stanislaus. She's taught Cyber High, AVID and English at IGCG and West High for seven years. Julie is involved in a multitude of district programs including BTSA (both teacher and support provider), the English Learner Instructional Strategies Coaching Project, CISC, BTSA Leadership Committee, English Steering Committee, Literacy Leadership Committee, Freshman Academic Learning Community and PAR. She was also the Relay for Life Youth Team Leader in 2008. Julie is married with two children who graduated from West High and now attend college at CSU Chico and CSU San Diego. She has lived in Tracy for 20 years having moved from the Bay Area in 1989.

“The National Board Certification process was the most rigorous staff development in which I have ever participated,” said Julie. “However, it was worth the time and effort because the process allowed me to look at what I do in the classroom, analyze why I do it and reflect on the impact it had on student learning. Ultimately, as a teacher, my objective is to ensure student learning.”

National Board Certification measures a teacher's practice against high and rigorous standards through an extensive series of performance-based assessments, which includes teaching portfolios, student work samples, videos and thorough analyses of the candidate's teaching and the students' learning. The process involves written exercises that probe the depth of a candidate's subject-matter knowledge, as well as his or her understanding of how to teach those subjects.

Offered on a voluntary basis and valid for 10 years, the advanced system of National Board Certification complements, but does not replace, state licensing. Each state, school district and school decides how best to capitalize on the National Board Certification process and the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers as it designs instructional arrangements to promote student learning and support professional practice.

“TUSD is very proud of Mrs. Gard and her wonderful accomplishment in becoming a National Board Certified Teacher,” said Superintendent Dr. James Franco. “The knowledge and skills she obtained during this process will help her students and her peers excel in their respective fields. We are delighted and fortunate when our teachers achieve these marks of distinction.”

For more information, please contact Teacher, Julie Gard at West High School at 830-3370 and for more information on National Board Certification please visit www.nbpts.org.

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