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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**10 Teachers Achieve National Board Certification, 19 Renew**  
*BCS Ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the Nation, 5<sup>th</sup> in North Carolina*

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(ASHEVILLE) - Ten Buncombe County School teachers achieved National Board Certification, and 19 teachers renewed their certification in the 2014-2015 school year. Overall, BCS ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 533 Board certified teachers, accounting for close to 1/3 of all certified staff. The system also ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the state in the number of Board certified teachers.

“This is an incredibly impressive achievement because National Board Certification continues to become more challenging, and it is a great indicator that teachers have met the profession’s highest standards,” said Susanne Swanger, BCS Associate Superintendent "It’s a challenging process that gives teachers the tools to define and measure excellence in teaching, resulting in positive outcomes for our students in Buncombe County Schools."

National Board Certification is a performance-based, peer-review process similar to Board certification in medicine. To date, more than 110,000 teachers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia have achieved the professions gold standard for accomplished teaching based on standards. Re-certification is required every ten years. For more information on National Board Certification, go to [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

Following is a list of re-certified and newly Board certified teachers from Buncombe County Schools:

<b>New National Board Certified Teachers</b>	<b>Teachers Receiving Renewal</b>	<b>Teachers Receiving Renewal</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amanda Boyd</li> <li>• Kelly Dunbar</li> <li>• Debbie Ebner</li> <li>• Shelley Graham</li> <li>• Elsa Iglesias</li> <li>• Rikki Ogle Carpenter</li> <li>• Tristen Plemmons</li> <li>• Kimberly Sprouse</li> <li>• Kristan Strietzel-Duga</li> <li>• Stephanie Warren</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathy Bonyun</li> <li>• Catherine Bradburn</li> <li>• Sheri Coules</li> <li>• Teresa Cowan</li> <li>• Terri Downing</li> <li>• Jeannie Graeme</li> <li>• Dana Haney</li> <li>• Stephenie Jackson</li> <li>• Caryn Levy</li> <li>• Melody Markert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christy Pace</li> <li>• Tami Ramsey</li> <li>• Joanne Robert</li> <li>• Amelia Slaughter</li> <li>• Donalyn Small</li> <li>• Lisa Boynton Stamey</li> <li>• Traci Walker</li> <li>• Paige Walton</li> <li>• Marcie Wells</li> </ul>

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