## Mr. Bryan Holley National Board Certified Teacher How he **"Took the LEAP"**

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Mr. Bryan Holley, National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), is deeply committed to advancing the teaching profession. He believes the field needs people who are willing to do whatever it takes to give their students the best possible education, a belief which led him to pursue National Board Certification in 2010. He soon realized that while the process was demanding, it was even more rewarding, as it aligned with his career mission: a better educational system for all, led by teachers who are afforded the same respect as the esteemed professions of medicine, law, and engineering.

Bryan's educational experience includes teaching kindergarten through 8th grade, in addition to high school juniors and seniors; and working as a school improvement coach, a position which has given him additional time to build relationships with teachers across his school district. Through his community involvement, Bryan became a part of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), an organization in which he has been able to further cultivate relationships with educators across the state.

"The process of certification helped me to not only focus and strengthen my craft, but it has also helped me become more of a leader and an advocate for students and teachers. Learning and leading are the two qualities that can propel this profession forward. National Board Certification embodies both of these qualities."

- Bryan Holley, NBCT

To broaden his impact, Bryan joined the North Carolina NBCT Network, which provides support for National Board candidates as well as programs for leadership development and policy advocacy. With a 12% salary increase available as a statewide incentive for NBCTs in North Carolina, most teachers are well aware of this opportunity, but still it often takes the encouragement and support of fellow educators to take the LEAP to pursue Board certification. Through the NC NBCT Network's participation in the Leading, Empowering, and Advocating for the Profession (LEAP) project, which aims to build the capacity of NBCTs as agents of change in addressing such issues as teacher shortages and teacher diversity, Bryan leads candidate support sessions, giving teachers a chance to network and collaborate on innovative approaches to advance their practice.

Bryan now frequently participates in national panels, further spreading awareness about how teachers can advance the profession so that all students benefit from an accomplished teacher. every child to achieve their greatest potential.

—The Leading, Empowering, and Advocating for the Profession (LEAP) project is generously supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation





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