

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020

CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, 605-773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or

Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, 605-773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

South Dakota teachers, school counselors go above and beyond with professional certifications

PIERRE, S.D. – Five South Dakota teachers and three school counselors earned national certifications in 2019, demonstrating advanced knowledge and skill in their professions.

Teachers achieve National Board Certification through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-reviewed assessment of a teacher's pedagogical (teaching) skills and content knowledge. The certification process takes one to three years to complete. While licensing standards set the basic requirements to teach in a state, National Board Certified teachers demonstrate advanced teaching knowledge, skills, and practices similar to the certifications earned by experts in law and medicine. South Dakota's 2019 recipients of National Board Certification include:

- Carli Flemmer, English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood, Northern State University Center for Statewide E-learning
- Kari Jungclaus, Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood, Rapid City Area School District
- Karen McGuigan, Generalist/Middle Childhood, Rapid City Area School District
- Cari Olson, English as a New Language/Early and Middle Childhood, Harrisburg School District
- Alicia Schoenhard, Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood, Pierre School District

The National Certified School Counselor certification recognizes counselors who demonstrate specialized knowledge and skills in school counseling. This certification shows that one has met national standards of practice, including additional education, experience, and a specialty exam. The following school counselors reported to the South Dakota Department of Education that they became National Certified School Counselors in 2019:

- Sara Holmberg, Dell Rapids School District
- Angel Samson, Aberdeen School District
- Mandi Scott, Spearfish School District

South Dakota teachers who earn National Board Certification receive \$2,000 per year for five years, with \$1,000 paid by the South Dakota Department of Education and \$1,000 paid by the teacher's school district. The department will also reimburse fees personally paid by teachers and school counselors, upon their achievement of national certification. As long as funds are available, the department will also pay National Certified School Counselors \$1,000 annually for five years.

To learn more about these certifications and stipend and reimbursement opportunities, visit <https://doe.sd.gov/nationalboard/> or call the South Dakota Department of Education at 605-773-3134.